



Editorial: Traditional Sporting Games and Play: Enhancing Cultural Diversity, Emotional Well-Being, Interpersonal Relationships and Intelligent Decisions

Pere Lavega-Burgués^{1*}, Marco Antonio Coelho Bortoleto² and Miguel Pic³

¹ National Institute of Physical Education of Catalonia, University of Lleida, Lleida, Spain, ² Physical Education and Humanities (DEFH), University of Campinas, Campinas, Brazil, ³ Institute of Sport, Tourism, and Service, South Ural State University Chelyabinsk, Chelyabinsk, Russia

Keywords: traditional sporting games, culture, emotions, decision learning, motor praxeology

Editorial on the Research Topic

Traditional Sporting Games and Play: Enhancing Cultural Diversity, Emotional Well-Being, Interpersonal Relationships and Intelligent Decisions

SUMMARY

OPEN ACCESS

Edited and reviewed by:

Guy Cheron,
Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium

*Correspondence:

Pere Lavega-Burgués
plavega@inefc.es

Specialty section:

This article was submitted to
Movement Science and Sport
Psychology,
a section of the journal
Frontiers in Psychology

Received: 29 August 2021

Accepted: 04 October 2021

Published: 29 October 2021

Citation:

Lavega-Burgués P, Bortoleto MAC and Pic M (2021) Editorial: Traditional Sporting Games and Play: Enhancing Cultural Diversity, Emotional Well-Being, Interpersonal Relationships and Intelligent Decisions. *Front. Psychol.* 12:766625. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2021.766625

General Approach. Motor Praxeology, A New Discipline for Researching Traditional Sporting Games

- Book Review: Contribution à un Lexique Commenté en Science de l'Action Motrice. Zhaïra Ben Chaâbane.
- Book Review: Éléments de Sociologie du Sport. Bordes Pascal.
- Book Review: La Aventura Praxiológica. Ciencia, Acción y Educación Física. María Pilar Founaud and Asier Oiarbide.
- The Universals of Games and Sports. Pierre Parlebas.
- Book Review: Games and Society in Europa. Bartosz Prabucki.
- Book Review: Els jocs i els esports Tradicionals. Tradicionari. [The Traditional Games and Sports. Traditionari]. Gabriel Pubill.
- Book Review: Recreios Collegiaes. Mário Duarte Maia Rodrigues.

Traditional Sporting Games and Play: Culture, and Diversity:

- Traditional Games as Cultural Heritage: The Case of Canary Islands (Spain) From an Ethnomotor Perspective. Rafael Luchoro-Parrilla, Pere Lavega-Burgués, Sabine Damian-Silva, Queralt Prat, Unai Sáez de Ocáriz, Enric Ormo-Ribes and Miguel Pic.
- Playing Ludomotor Activities in Lleida During the Spanish Civil War: An Ethnomotor Approach. Enric Ormo-Ribes, Pere Lavega-Burgués, Rosa Rodríguez-Arregi, Rafael Luchoro-Parrilla, Aaron Rillo-Albert and Miguel Pic.
- The Commemoration of Independence Day: Recalling Indonesian Traditional Games. Mustika Fitri, Hana Astria Nur and Wulandari Putri.
- The Game of Skittles on the Northern Route of the Camino de Santiago. José E. Rodríguez-Fernández, Mar Lorenzo-Moledo, Jesús García-Álvarez and Gabriela Míguez-Salina.

researching TSGs, based on the systemic or structural approach. We hope that our colleagues in the Anglosphere will join us in the knowledge and application of the fundamentals of this scientific discipline, as has already been done in Africa (e.g., Algeria, Congo, Guinea, Mali, Morocco, and Tunisia), America (e.g., Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, and United States), Asia (e.g., South Korea), and Europe (e.g., France, Italy, Portugal, Spain, and Switzerland).

For this reason, it is not surprising that some authors of this book review the most important of Parlebas' books. Chaâbane takes on the challenge of reviewing of probably the main publication in the science of motor action: *Contribution à un lexique commenté en science de l'action motrice*. Through the definition of the core concepts for an in-depth understanding of motor situations, Parlebas proposes a specific scientific language to the domain of physical activities and sports (PAS) and an innovative analysis of physical and playful activities. The first edition (1981) is a testimony of the birth of a new point of view on motor actions. The second one (1999) highlights one of the consequences of this new approach: the interest in traditional games. Parlebas presents the concept of the internal logic (Parlebas, 1981, 1999), an intrinsic reality of sporting games which exposes the motor conducts. These conducts manifest according to the relationship they create between the actor and its environment: relationship with space, objects, time, and other actors. This discipline also offers a systemic and scientific classification of TSG that has provided multiple interpretations and applications. In addition, the motor action states that, on the basis of a rigorous analysis of ludomotor structures, extrinsic elements of the game bring further clarifications and enrich the understanding of TSG, from the angle of their relationship to culture and the social environment in which they are developed. Every motricity is an "ethnomotricity" (Parlebas, 1981, 1999). The frivolousness of TSGs is only an appearance: they are in reality the mirror of the community to which they belong, and they participate in the cultural identity of each society which represents original playful patterns, linked to their lifestyles (Parlebas, 2001; Lagardera and Lavega, 2003).

Pascal Bordes writes the book review of Parlebas' second key work: *Éléments de Sociologie du Sport*. Parlebas uses a rigorous methodology linked to an innovative standpoint to develop his scientific contributions. Sport is coherently conceived and understood as "the finite and countable set of motor situations codified in the form of institutionalized competition" (p. 55). Any traditional sporting game is precisely distinguished from sports because it lacks recognition by the authorities in place, and from federations and international committees in particular. They represent the diversity of an exuberant ludomotor heritage. On the contrary, sports embody massive hierarchical, centralized, and normative regulatory systems.

Behind the apparent diversity of forms in the sports world there operates one same deep structure: opposition in the form of contests between teams or individuals that fight on equal terms according to scores of capitalizable numerical units; sport presents itself as the Esperanto of physical games.

Subsequently, Founaud and Oiarbide present the book review of *La Aventura Praxiológica*. *Ciencia, Acción y Educación Física* that contains 32 selected and translated by the editor Raúl Martínez-Santos, who groups them chronologically and thematically. It is the adventure that Parlebas undertakes to create the science of motor action, a new conception of physical education, the process of creation of a matrix science, a change of paradigm for an orphan, as physical education has been.

By reading these three core books of motor praxeology, researchers will recognize the fundamentals and use of the main meaningful concepts related to the system and the actor, i.e., the game and its protagonists. Concerning the game, two key concepts emerge: (a) the *internal logic* or identity card, that asks players to solve four types of internal relationships: with others, with the physical space, with time, and with the materials; (b) *an innovative classification* of sporting games with eight different action domains regarding the relationships that agents establish with their social and natural milieus. These two concepts, which are widely used as independent variables in multiple research studies, lead us to the key concept of the actor: *the* "motor conduct" understood as the meaningful organization of motor behaviors, as the common factor of games, sports, and any physical activity, and, consequently, as the proper object of object physical education.

The reader of this e-book can feel privileged accessing the article *The Universals of Games and Sports* written especially for this monograph by Pierre Parlebas. This article shows that behind the superficial disorder that is all the rage in traditional games, there is an in-depth order in there as well. The "universals" are these laws of order, these underlying objective systems on top of which the praxic exchanges that can be observed in all games and sports are built: operational models which represent the basic structures of the functioning of any sporting game, bearers of the fundamental features of its internal logic. Ludodiversity is a confirmed phenomenon: the analysis of universals reveals that the alleged superior complexity of sports is an illusion. Between traditional games and sports there is not a difference in degree, but in nature.

This e-book also reviews other works that have used motor praxeology to research TSGs: Prabucki, Poland reviews *Games and Society in Europe* (published by the European Traditional Sports and Games Association (ETSGA/AEJeST) stating the status of TSGs as an intangible cultural heritage.

Pubill analyses the Catalan Encyclopedia *The Traditional Games and Sports*. *Traditionari*. The 25 authors provide an excellent approach from the past (tradition) and the present (modernity) in order to understand the current society through the foster important values on TSGs.

Rodrigues describes how motor praxeology also contributes to understanding the motor and socio-cultural richness of Portuguese TSGs, in the work *Recreios Collegiaes*, authored by Priest Pedro Aloy. One of the findings of the analysis of this work

is the great predominance of socio-motor games that encourage a great diversity of interpersonal relationships.

The fundamentals of motor praxeology also allow to identify the ethnomotor singularity of TSGs in the Canary Islands (Luchoro-Parrilla et al.). The playful activities were games (activities with rules) and played with objects, that enhanced material and social sustainability experiences. Motor action theory was also applied to interpret the distinctive features of TSGs during the Spanish Civil War (Ormo-Ribes et al.). Different features were observed when comparing TSGs with and without war connotations.

Fitri et al. present an ethnography of TSGs in the commemoration of Indonesia Independence Day that is conducted annually. Games and local culture are an inseparable binomial.

Rodríguez-Fernández et al. analyze, using mixed methods, the Skittles on the Northern Route of the Camino de Santiago, revealing symbols of local traditional heritage. Saura and Zimmermann wrote an article to discuss how a TSG Festival in a public school in São Paulo, Brazil, promotes intercultural dialog with a focus on sustainability, and how it empowers people and creates equality among its players.

Araújo and Jaqueira apply a multi-method process to analyze the Blows and Capoeira Movements from the Caricatures of Calixto Cordeiro in Brazil. The research shows substantial information about the blows/moves of this contest, as well as its different names, slang, and expressive forms, often associated with different groups of practitioners from different Brazilian cities.

The contextual view of TSGs is complemented by the contribution of Waluch, by reviewing the book *The Story of Catch: The Story of Lancashire Catch-as-Catch-Can Wrestling* by Ruslan C. Pashayev. The historic approach describes this wrestling TSG in different periods. This is the only major book ever to cover this subject.

This e-book explains that emotions can be studied from different disciplines, in addition to psychology. Costes et al. explain how the TSGs collected in Alcover and Moll's Catalan-Valencian-Balearic Dictionary originated playful communities of emotions among their protagonists. Damian-Silva et al. conduct an ethnographic study to reveal the emotional states elicited in a human tower performance. Emotional well-being also plays a role in the mixed-method study around the traditional Cypriot Easter Games written by Koundourou et al. The findings indicate that the games elicit emotions such as joy, excitement, and euphoria. Emotions such as embarrassment, frustration, and anger are also observed occasionally, specifically in situations of competitiveness and defeat.

TSGs may trigger positive effects on mood states in different families of TSG. Cifo et al. focus on traditional opposition games and observe that competition and the gender of the group are variables to be taken into account. Mateu et al. research the moods of male and female students in their body language and dance choreographies. Alcaraz-Muñoz et al. study the joy in TSGs practiced by elementary physical education students.

This study brings the value of considering games as a key role to promote the education of social-emotional well-being in schoolchildren, as the basis of academic training

García-Monge et al. explore the childhood meanings of the chained bear TSG and compare their findings with the cultural meanings of different traditional versions of this game. Their results show that, beyond the individual images that each child created in their mind, most of them coincided in stories about harassment, defense, theft, and protection.

The pedagogical use of TSGs is also the focus of interest in the contribution by Martínez-Santos et al. when they carry out a conceptual analysis to try to and reconcile two perspectives, namely motor praxeology and teaching games for understanding (TGfU). Their conclusion is that TGfU, or game-based approaches to sports coaching and teaching, can take great advantage of the motor-praxeological rationale.

Martínez-Santos reviews the book *La paradoja de jugar en triada* (The motor game in triad) by Pic and Navarro-Adelantado, showing the sporting games in which three teams play against each other performing interesting paradoxical situations. Any game in which three agents interact leads to triadic motor interaction systems, that is, to motor action systems in which one player's acts must be interpreted as positive or negative in relation to any other two players' relationship.

Finally, Obœuf et al. illustrate the influence of traditional sporting games on the development of creative skills in football. Creativity originates from an interaction between divergence and convergence. In this research, the number of communications (fluidity) and the diversity of updated communications (flexibility) are the divergence indicators. Convergence is studied as the ability to make good decisions. The results show that TSGs can help develop players' creative abilities.

The editors would also like to acknowledge the valuable work of around fifty reviewers that joined this process. With this great team, we believe this book represents a substantial contribution to the TSG field.

Finally, we would also like to thank the journal *Frontiers in Psychology* for being a pioneer in organizing a scientific monograph on traditional sporting games and play.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

All authors listed (PL-B, MB, and MP) have made a substantial, direct, and intellectual contribution to the work, and approved it for publication.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The editors of this book would like to acknowledge the valuable work of around fifty reviewers that joined this process. With this great team, this book represents a substantial contribution to the TSG field. Finally, we would also like to thank the *Journal Frontiers in Psychology* for being a pioneer in organizing a scientific monograph on traditional sporting games and play.

REFERENCES

- Lagardera, F. and Lavega, P. (2003). *Introducción a la praxiología motriz*. Barcelona: Paidotribo.
- Parlebas P. (2001). *Juegos, deportes y sociedad. Léxico de Praxiología Motriz*. Editorial Paidotribo.
- Parlebas, P. (1981). *Contribution á un lexique commenté en science de l'action motrice*. Paris: INSEP.
- Parlebas, P. (1999). *Jeux, sports et sociétés (2 ed.)*. Paris: INSEP.

Conflict of Interest: The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

Publisher's Note: All claims expressed in this article are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of their affiliated organizations, or those of the publisher, the editors and the reviewers. Any product that may be evaluated in this article, or claim that may be made by its manufacturer, is not guaranteed or endorsed by the publisher.

Copyright © 2021 Lavega-Burgués, Bortoleto and Pic. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY). The use, distribution or reproduction in other forums is permitted, provided the original author(s) and the copyright owner(s) are credited and that the original publication in this journal is cited, in accordance with accepted academic practice. No use, distribution or reproduction is permitted which does not comply with these terms.