2nd International Scientific Conference

Beyond the Game: Women, Sport, and Social Changes

🌍 Zagreb, Croatia | 🗓️ December 17–19, 2026
Organizers: Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar & University of Zagreb Faculty of Kinesiology

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Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you to the **2nd International Scientific Conference *Beyond the Game: Women, Sport, and Social Changes***, to be held in Zagreb, Croatia, from 17-19 December 2026.

Sport is a powerful social arena—a place in which social relations are both reproduced and transformed. Despite significant progress in women's participation in sport, gender inequalities persist across domains such as power, governance, media representation, economic resources, and career opportunities.

This conference aims to foster interdisciplinary, critical dialogue on gender and sport in contemporary societies, linking historical perspectives with present-day challenges. Special emphasis is placed on understanding social change, as well as identifying structural constraints and transformative possibilities within the field of sport.

The conference will bring together scholars from across the social sciences and humanities to exchange theoretical and empirical insights and strengthen international collaboration.

🎤 Keynote Speakers

- **Mariann Vaczi** (University of Nevada, Reno, USA)
- **Leanne Norman** (Loughborough University, School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences, UK)

📚 Topics include (but are not limited to):

- History and development of sport
- Women in sport through history
- Gender inequality in sport
- Gender, participation, and sport
- Youth sport
- Gender-based violence in sport
- LGBTIQ+ experiences
- Gender and parasport
- Discrimination and harassment
- Economic inequalities
- Governance, coaching, officiating
- Social class and sport participation
- Athletic careers
- Sport, economy, and marketing

- Organization of sport
- Media and sport
- Women in sports media
- Politics, nation, and power
- Race and ethnicity
- Gender and ideology
- Sport and education
- Sport and religion
- Health and sport
- Other gender-related topics in sport

📄 Submission Guidelines

- Deadline: **15 October 2026**
- Length of abstract: up to **250 words**
- Languages: Croatian and/or English
- 📧 Submission e-mail: **sport.sociology.conference@kif.unizg.hr**

Submissions may include:

- individual papers
- panel sessions (panel abstract up to 150 words + 3-4 papers)

Authors may submit up to two papers.
Notification of acceptance: **1 November 2026**

All abstracts will be published in the conference proceedings. A **peer-reviewed edited volume** is planned after the conference.

🌍 Venue

- 17-18 December: Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar (Trg Marka Marulića 19, Zagreb)
- 19 December: University of Zagreb Faculty of Kinesiology (Horvaćanski zavoj 15, Zagreb)

💶 **Registration Fee** includes access to all lectures and parallel sessions, opening ceremony, closing dinner, lunches, coffee breaks, and social programme.

- €150 – regular participants
- €75 – students and retirees

We look forward to receiving your abstracts!

On behalf of the Organizing Committee,

Sunčica Bartoluci & Marko Mustapić