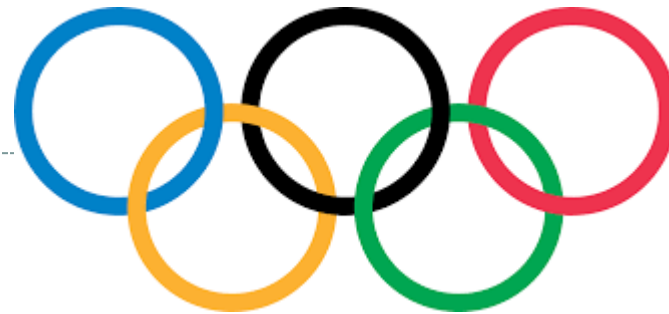




Human Rights



© **II. The Olympics, a
means/tool/social space
for promoting Human Rights**

4th class lecture November 4, 2021



Irene Kamberdiou, Professor of Sociology:
Gender issues in Sports and Society
Email: ikamper@phed.uoa.gr

2. Social stereotypes / myths

the ‘weaker sex’ and the ‘weaker brain’ theory

The “**weaker brain**” theory in nineteenth-century Britain ...

Women “**need to conserve energy**” ...

“deciphering the way theories of female inferiority managed to permeate **all scientific, public and private areas** (to a point where women came to convince themselves of their own inferiority – the ultimate symptom of alienation” (Fauvel, 2013).

“Whether gynaecologists or psychiatrists, those British doctors who were the most deeply convinced of the debility of the weaker sex thus came up against the opposition of women, who counter-attacked on three different fronts. Firstly from within the associations, activists fought to make cases of medical abuse known...” (Fauvel, 2013)

...the construction and consolidation of the social myth (stereotype) of the “weaker sex”, primarily from medical fields...

(Kamberidou, 2019; Kamberidou, Bonias & Patsantaras, 2019; Kirk 2002; Pfister, 1990; Sandow 1898, Moebius 1908, Weininger 1917, Webster 1930



3

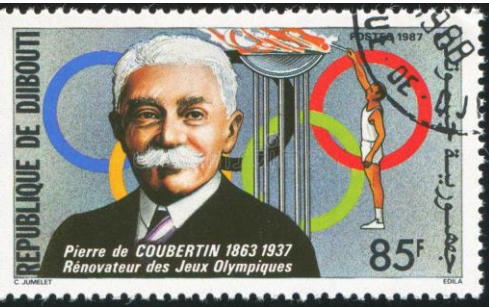




5. Muslim Women Team Wearing Muslim Dress | Rio Olympics 2016 (βίντεο) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=crC798N5oZw>

RIO 2016 OLYMPICS





6. Pierre de Coubertin



“I do not approve of the participation of women in public competitions. In the Olympic Games, their primary role should be to crown the victors.” “**a distinct threat to the spectators’ morals**” (Coubertin, *Revue Olympique*, 1902, also in: in Fauvel, 2013)



Aleksandra Szynoga
 Liceum Ogólnokształcące Im. Jana Kochanowskiego w Olecku

7. Social stereotypes/myths the ‘weaker sex’ and the ‘weaker brain’ theory

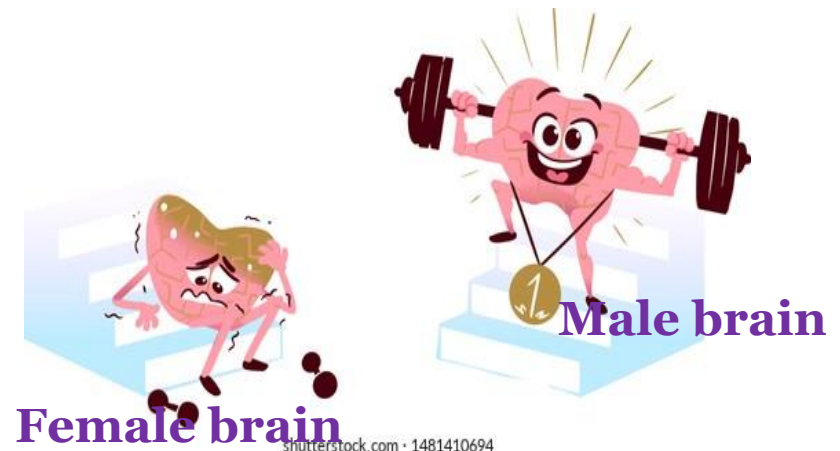


The “weaker brain” theory in nineteenth-century Britain ... “**women need to conserve energy ... Doctors hospitalized ‘abnormal’ women who dared to rebel**” “deciphering the way theories of female inferiority managed to permeate **all scientific, public and private areas (to a point where women came to convince themselves of their own inferiority – the ultimate symptom of alienation**” (Fauvel, 2013).

“Whether **gynaecologists or psychiatrists**, those British doctors who were the most deeply convinced of the **debility of the weaker sex** thus came up against the opposition of women, who counter-attacked on three different fronts. Firstly from within the associations, activists fought to make cases of medical abuse known...” (Fauvel, 2013)

...the **construction** and consolidation of the social myth (stereotype) of the “weaker sex”, primarily from medical fields...

(Kamberidou, 2019; Kamberidou, Bonias & Patsantaras, 2019; Kirk 2002; Pfister, 1990; Sandow 1898, Moebius 1908, Weininger 1917, Webster 1930)



Pierre de Coubertin

8

“Women, to his mind, were like other **‘weak’** members of society – children, the elderly, and the sick – and were **best suited for physical education and the pursuit of public and personal health-oriented goals.**



“ Women’s athletic ‘exhibitions’ were a **distinct threat to the spectators’ morals.** Noting that athletic clothing was lighter than ordinary dress, he **[Coubertin] was concerned that the sight of women’s nearly nude bodies would arouse the primordial passions of the male spectators.** A clear danger was thus that the spectacle of **the lightly clothed female body would become more attractive than the athletic performance itself.”**

Carpentier & Lefèvre (2006)

9





10



onal Library of Australia

nla.pic-an22730619-v

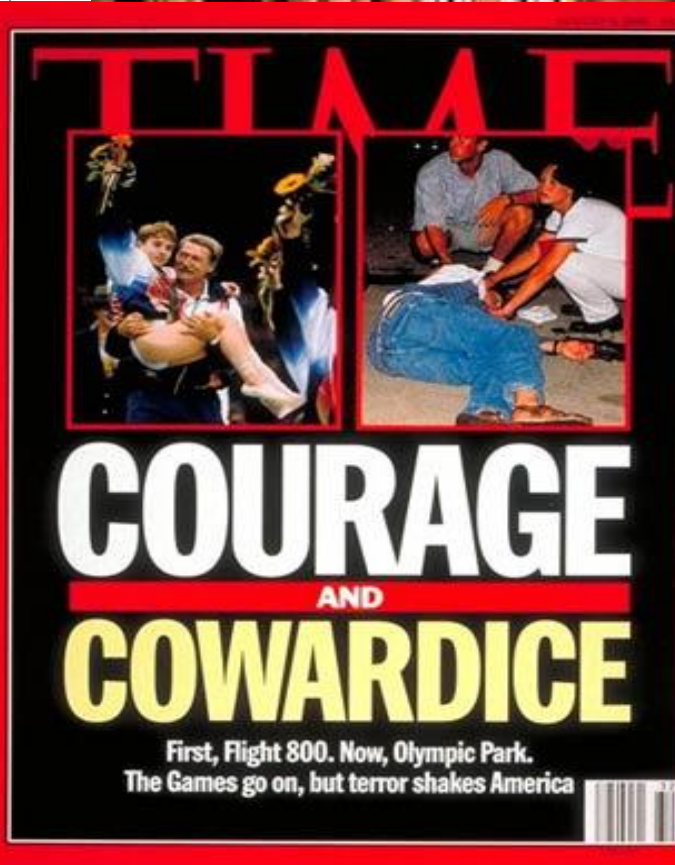
11. Cathy Freeman's [victory lap](#) at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, with the **Aboriginal** and **Australian flags** draped on her shoulders



A symbol of hope for reconciliation....



12



Beijing Olympic Games 2008

Reporters without borders...

13

Swiss reporter (with Tibetan descent) being dragged away...

“BLOODY GAMES” (2008)



“The Beijing Olympics, a nightmare for the millions of people in China who love peace....” “Free Tibet”, “cultural genocide”

14



No more Bloody Games” – Young Tibetan activists stage IOC protest as Beijing makes pitch for 2022 Winter Olympics

15

JUNE 25, 2015

MEDIA CENTRE, NEWS

[HTTPS://TIBETNETWORK.ORG/NO-MORE-BLOODY-GAMES-YOUNG-TIBETANS-PROTEST-BEIJING-2022-OLYMPICS/](https://tibetnetwork.org/no-more-bloody-games-young-tibetans-protest-beijing-2022-olympics/)

“Cultural genocide”, “political tyranny”, “political prisoners”
“no more bloody games”



Tibetan torture victim Golog Jigme from 2008 calls on IOC to reject China's bid.



16.

“The Munich massacre” 1972



....demanded the release of 234
Palestinian prisoners in Israel jails

...

“All the News That's Fit to Print”

The New York Times

LATE CITY EDITION

VOL. CXXI, No. 41,814 NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1972 11 CENTS

9 ISRAELIS ON OLYMPIC TEAM KILLED WITH 4 ARAB CAPTORS AS POLICE FIGHT BAND THAT DISRUPTED MUNICH GAMES



MRS. WEIR SPEAKS

A Hushed Parliament
Hears Her Aural
“Lunatic Acts”

By THOMAS WINTER
WASHINGTON, Sept. 5—Her
voice here and speaking with
emotion, Mrs. Weir said that
she believed “these lunatic
acts of terrorism, rebellion
and lawlessness, which our
nation has seen the last of
decades ago.”

Speaking to a hushed and
hushed parliament before the
face of the Israeli hostages held
captives in Munich was known,
she said, “It is inconceivable
that the Israeli people should
suffer as they are now victims
are under the threat of being
murdered in the Olympic vil-
lage.”

She called on all the nations
participating in the Olympics to
do “whatever is necessary” to
rescue the nine Israeli captives.



A 20-HOUR DRAMA

2 Others Are Slain in
Their Quarters in
Olympic Raid

By HAROLD DOBSON
MUNICH, Sept. 5 (UPI)—
Vandals, 194 10-Gauge
ammunition of Israeli Olympic
team and four Arab terrorists
were killed yesterday in a 20-
hour drama that began with an
invasion of the Olympic Village
by the Arabs. It ended in a
climactic as a victory despite
over 100 shots fired as the
Arabs were preparing to fire on
Czech and Czech buildings.

The first two Israelis were
killed early yesterday morning,
when Arab commandos, armed
with automatic rifles, broke
into the quarters of the Israeli
team and killed two athletes as
they slept. The bodies were
found in the Olympic stadium
yesterday and were taken to
hospital and buried.



- "On September 5th 1972, during the games held in Munich, 8 Arab terrorists infiltrated the Olympic village, in the subsequent battles, **11 Israeli athletes were killed.** This attack was by far, the worst event in Olympic history..."

“The Munich massacre” 1972

17



Mexico's 1968 Massacre

18



Thousands
demonstrated/protested....
300 protestors lost their
lives...

Hundreds injured, and
thousands arrested...

19. **“Eyewitnesses described the bodies of hundreds of young people being trucked away. Thousands of students were beaten and jailed, and many disappeared...”**

<https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=97546687>

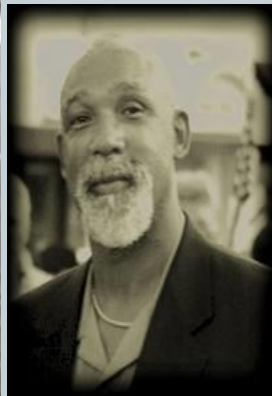


Olympic Project for Human Rights (OPHR)

20



Tomie Smith



Tomie Smith και John Carlos



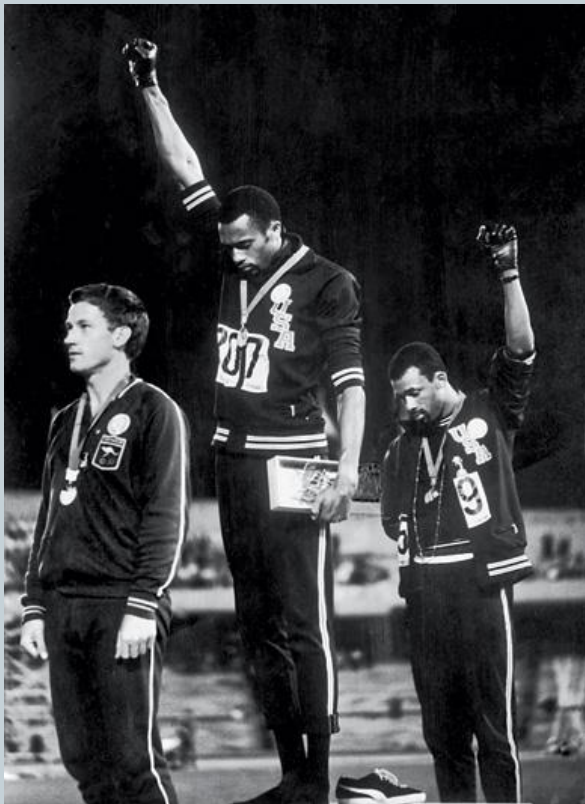
MEXICO 1968:

Silent protest: Black power, black unity

21

Tomie Smith και
John Carlos

“Black power” – “Black unity”



THE IOC CONDEMNED THEIR...

- “...the 1968 Olympics Black Power salute. Gold medalist Tommie Smith (center) and bronze medalist John Carlos (right) showing the raised fist on the podium after the 200 m race at the 1968 Summer Olympics; both wear Olympic Project for Human Rights badges. Peter Norman (silver medalist, left) from Australia also wears an OPHR badge in solidarity with Smith and Carlos.”
- **“Black Unity” : Black Unity and Power**... “the black scarf represented black pride and the black socks with no shoes stood for black poverty in racist America....”

Μεξικό 1968: silent protest

22

Tomie Smith και John Carlos

THE IOC



- “...it was a deliberate and violent breach of the fundamental principles of the Olympic spirit. It is widely expected the two **will be expelled from the Olympic village and sent back to the US.**”

A FEW DAYS LATER....Black Panther salute/symbol: Larry James , Lee Evans and Ron Freeman

23



I. Protests in 2020

II. Athletes Will Be Banned From Protesting at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. But the Games Have a Long History of Political Demonstrations ([MÉLISSA GODIN](#) in her article dated JANUARY 14, 2020 12:19 PM EST)

24



IOC'S no-protest rule silences, intimidates athletes

John Carlos: 'Why do I have to sacrifice my moral character' to participate in the Olympics?

25



In this Aug. 9, 2019 photo, released by Lima 2019 News Services, gold medalist Gwen Berry, of the United States, raises her fist on the awards podium for women's hammer throw at the Pan American Games in Lima, Peru. Claudio Cruz/Lima 2019 News Services via AP



Cathy Freeman's [victory lap](#) at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, with the **Aboriginal** and **Australian** flags draped on her shoulders as a with the Aboriginal and Australian flags draped on her shoulders — a symbol of hope for reconciliation.



OLYMPICS STRIVE FOR POLITICAL NEUTRALITY

Rule 50 Guidelines Developed by the IOC Athletes' Commission

<https://www.olympic.org/-/media/document%20library/olympicorg/news/2020/01/rule-50-guidelines-tokyo-2020.pdf>

27

“NO KIND OF DEMONSTRATION OR POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS OR RACIAL PROPAGANDA IS PERMITTED IN ANY OLYMPIC SITES, VENUES OR OTHER AREAS ... THE FOCUS AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES MUST REMAIN ON ATHLETES’ PERFORMANCES, SPORT AND THE INTERNATIONAL UNITY AND HARMONY THAT THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT SEEKS TO ADVANCE. ATHLETES AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES ARE PART OF A GLOBAL COMMUNITY ...”

RESEARCH PAPER – LITERATURE REVIEW ON

- POLITICAL ACTIVISM IN SPORT (AT MEGA SPORT EVENTS, THE OLYMPICS, ETC.)

