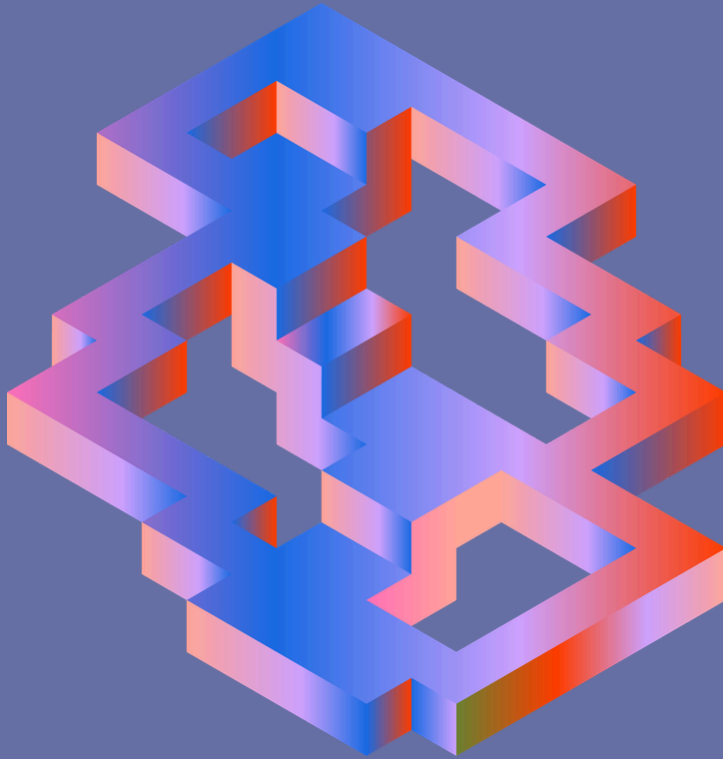


# SEVENTEENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SPORT & SOCIETY

**INNOVATION, TRANSFORMATION, CONTESTATION:**  
*CAN SPORT KEEP UP WITH SOCIETY'S FUTURE?*



**10-12 JUNE 2026**

INLAND NORWAY UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES  
LILLEHAMMER CAMPUS, NORWAY



Inland Norway  
University of  
Applied Sciences



Seventeenth International Conference on Sport & Society

<https://sportandsociety.com/2026-conference>

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# Welcome Letters



New Thinking

New Practices

New Societies

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Dear Conference Participants,

On behalf of Common Ground Research Networks, I welcome you to the Seventeenth International Conference on Sport & Society.

Founded in 2010, the Sport & Society Research Network is brought together around a common interest in cultural, political, and economic relationships of sport to society. We seek to build an epistemic community where we can make linkages across disciplinary, geographic, and cultural boundaries.

This truly international conference brings together a diverse group of scholars, practitioners, and thought leaders from around the world. We are proud to provide a platform for exchanging ideas, and presenting research, addressing some of the pressing issues of our time.

Our conference theme, "Innovation, Transformation, Contestation: Can Sport Keep Up with Society's Future?" reflects our commitment to exploring new frontiers in research and practice. Over the next few days, In-Person or Online, you will have the opportunity to attend keynotes, panel discussions, and other session types led by our Emerging Scholars. We encourage you to take full advantage of these sessions to gain new insights, expand your professional network, and find inspiration for your own work.

We want to thank our keynote speakers Dr. Jörg Krieger, Petur Mittún, Ole Henrik Somby, Svein Erik Nordhagen, Anne Tjønndal, Usva Friman, presenters, and volunteers whose dedication and hard work have made this conference possible. We also thank our host partner University of Inland Norway for their generous support.

We hope you find this conference to be an intellectually stimulating and rewarding experience. Your active participation is crucial to the success of this event, and we look forward to the lively discussions and valuable connections that will emerge over the next few days.

Warm regards,

Dr. Phillip Kalantzis Cope  
Chief Social Scientist  
Common Ground Research Networks

Dear Conference Delegates,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this year's Sport & Society Conference, hosted at the Lillehammer Olympic & Paralympic Studies Centre of the University of Inland Norway. As Chair of the Centre and of the Sport & Society Research Network, I am delighted to greet you in a city that carries its Olympic heritage as living institutional commitment to the study and understanding of sport. The University and the Centre are parts of this legacy. The Radio and Television Centre for the 1994 Winter Olympic Games, for example was established at the same location as Lillehammer University College, which merged into the university in 2017. The Olympic & Paralympic Studies Centre is part of the legacy of the 2016 Winter Youth Olympic Games.

This year's conference takes place at a remarkable moment. The conference opens precisely as the FIFA World Cup 2026 kicks off across the United States, Canada, and Mexico. After tournaments hosted in Russia and Qatar, many observers hoped that football's grandest stage might finally disentangle itself from geopolitical controversy. That hope has not survived. The 2026 edition arrives laden with its own political tensions, sharpened by the particular weight that hosting carries in the contemporary United States. It will be a fascinating spectacle to follow alongside our deliberations, and no doubt a source of rich material for the conversations we will have this week and in the future.

Beyond the World Cup, the landscape of sport is shifting with unusual speed. The Enhanced Games have entered the arena as a direct provocation to the doping-free ideals of Olympic sport, openly inviting pharmacological enhancement and challenging us to think about where the boundaries of legitimate competition actually lie. The International Olympic Committee has placed the Youth Olympic Games on hold, a decision that feels particularly pointed for Lillehammer, which hosted the event in 2016 and invested in that vision of youth and sport. In the United States, the House v. NCAA settlement approved in June 2025 has opened the door to direct revenue-sharing for college athletes, marking a structural break with longstanding amateurism and accelerating a redefinition of the athlete as a worker and a brand. Together such developments suggest that some of sport's foundational assumptions are under pressure from multiple directions at once.

This pressure invites us to think more carefully about the conceptual tools we use to understand sport. For example, Allen Guttmann's landmark typology, developed in *From Ritual to Record* (2004) gave us a set of characteristics that defined modern sport: secularism, equality, specialization, rationalization, bureaucratization, quantification, and the quest for records. These have proven extraordinarily durable as analytical anchors. And yet, as colleagues and I have been discussing for some time, we may be reaching the limits of what these categories can hold. Take quantification: to Guttmann, it captures sport's tendency toward measurement and comparison, but what we now call datafication has moved beyond that observation into something qualitatively different. In elite sport, every movement is tracked and every performance embedded in predictive models, to the point where the data has become more real than the game itself. Equally, Guttmann's bureaucratization described the rational, rule-governed organizations that came to administer competition. However, entities like Nike, whose investment in the sub-two-hour marathon created conditions designed for performance rather than sport, or Red Bull, whose entertainment empire operates by an entirely different commercial logic, are no longer operating within that framework in any meaningful sense.

Corporatization, driven by brands and markets, has begun to displace the administrative rationality Guttman described. If we are to understand what sport is becoming, we may need to think about what comes after these characteristics rather than within them.

It is precisely this kind of thinking that our special conference focus this year invites. "Innovation, Transformation, Contestation: Can Sport Keep Up with Society's Future?" asks contributors to explore how the future of sport hinges on its ability to respond to accelerating societal change. We believe this theme is urgent.

This conference also marks the opening of a temporary exhibition "Not My Colors. Athletes and the Politics of Belonging," developed in collaboration between the Norwegian Olympic Museum and the Lillehammer Olympic & Paralympic Studies Centre. The exhibition explores how athletes have negotiated questions of identity, representation, and belonging in relation to national symbols and sporting institutions. It is a fitting companion to our scholarly conversations this week, and I warmly invite all delegates to experience it.

A conference of this kind is the result of many people's generosity and effort. I am deeply grateful to my colleagues at the Lillehammer Olympic & Paralympic Studies Centre for their commitment to making this event a reality, and to the Norwegian Olympic Museum, especially Sebastian Kühn, for their inspiring collaboration on the exhibition and the conference. My sincere thanks go to Common Ground Research Networks, and in particular to Phillip Kalantzis-Cope and Tamsyn Gilbert and their team, for their sustained support of the Sport & Society section and their trust in us as hosts. I am equally grateful to the Sport & Society Research Network community and their continued engagement with sport as a subject of scholarly debate.

I wish you a stimulating conference and hope that the beautiful city offers a fitting setting for these conversations but also a reminder of why they matter.

Yours sincerely,

**Jörg Krieger**

Chair, Lillehammer Olympic & Paralympic Studies Centre, University of Inland Norway  
Chair, Sport & Society Research Network



# The Sport & Society Research Network

Founded in 2010, the **Sport & Society Research Network** is brought together around a common interest in cultural, political, and economic relationships of sport to society. We seek to build an epistemic community where we can make linkages across disciplinary, geographic, and cultural boundaries. As a Research Network, we are defined by our scope and concerns and motivated to build strategies for action framed by our shared themes and tensions. .

## Game Logic

Sport's psycho-social motivations are built around a variety of game logics. Games are spaces of recreation and leisure; they are places of not-work; they stand outside the immediately functional, productive logics of employment and citizenship. However, they also reflect and reinforce the moral meanings of broader society: the values of energetic commitment; the virtue of developing skill; the challenge of striving to achieve; the rigors of competition; the rewards afforded to effort; the ethics of formal equality of opportunity (the level playing field); the vicissitudes of chance; magnanimity in loss; and in team sports the ethics of collaboration. The virtues of the "sporting spirit" are complement aspirational values in a wide variety of practices in education, work, and civic participation.

Yet the spirit of sport sits in tension with other complex and at times contradictory forces, ostensibly less part of its "true spirit" but which nevertheless at times seem intrinsic to its gaming logic. Is sport ritualized aggression, quasi-military in its formation, and to the extent that it is, is it a catharsis or catalyst sublimating other problems? Are values of competition a necessary and proper reflection of the motivations that drive market societies, or do they represent 'survival of the fittest' logic in which a few perennially win at the expense of the many who, game logic dictates, must lose? To what extent does game logic also tempt transgression of rules, from cheating to doping? How do we negotiate racism, sexism, homophobia and denigratory nationalism in sports?

## Body Logic

Sport also rests on a range of body logics. One logic is one of health, a counterpoint to work which for the majority of modern people is largely sedentary. Sport is a necessary antidote. Another logic is that of body image, captured visually in the ideal type of the physically fit man or woman. Another logic is body-to-body contact, the strictly delimited violence of contact sports or bodily co-ordination in sports of graceful movement. Another is the subtle or not-so-subtle expression of sexuality in sport.

However, sitting in tension with these idealizations are difficulties and challenges intrinsic to the logic of the sporting body itself. How do we make sports accessible to, and inclusive of, bodies outside of the ideal body type? How do we deal with the tendency to lionize unnatural extremes in the sporting body, and the over-exercise, drugs or assistive technologies which may be used to produce extreme effects? How do we reduce violence in sport and connected with sport? How do we address the perils of the sexualization of sport? How do we negotiate polyvalent sexualities?

## Aesthetic Logic

There are multiple aesthetics to sport, too. Sporting activities are driven by stories. The game is an open-ended, participatory narrative. It is a journey in time and space—the race or the match, for instance. Sporting achievements fold into everyday life narratives. Then there is the intrinsic aesthetic of movement, of graceful or impressively forceful bodies in time and space, of being outdoors or in a specially designed indoor spaces. Sport is also driven by ritual: formalised beginnings, stages and ends for participants and the stuff of spectacle and entertainment for viewers. This is the raw material for representation in conversation, media, advertising, and the arts-through discourses, imageries, sounds, and tactile sensations. Sport's sites of representation are print, television, radio, the internet—indeed any and all media, each with its characteristic forms and all in a state today of radical transformation.

However, sitting in tension with a positive aesthetics are the often crude functionalism of sporting spaces, the rabid commercialization of popular sport, the passivity of the spectacle and limited and differential access to the media for different sports or categories of player.

## Organizational Logic

Sports are forms of social organization. They depend upon, and are always supported by, institutional infrastructures and processes of management. Physical facilities are needed. Players need to learn to play. They need times and places to practice, and coaches to lead. These are the pragmatics of doing sport, and doing it well. This is the stuff of sports education, sports medicine and sports management, practiced by and for amateurs as well as professionals.

However, how does organization logic at times lead to excessive commercialism or even exploitation? When it does it become overburdened by bureaucracy? When does leisure become work in a way that perhaps defeats the purpose of sport-as-leisure?

The International Conference on Sport and Society and its companion journal, book series, and online network are places for the systematic examination a relationship in which sport oft-times enhances social life, while at other times it reflects broader social challenges as well as raising challenges unique to sport itself. These are the discussion forums of this knowledge.

## Sporting Cultures and Identities

On sport's motivations, meanings and purposes. Includes the psychology of sport and the interplay between individual identities and access, equity, and participation in sports. Examines the social and sociological aspects of sport, the impact of cultural traditions and cultural differences on how sports are played or viewed, and the influence of sports on national, ethnic, or community identity.

- Individual identity (race, gender, ethnicity, religion, etc) and impacts on sports participation
- Group identities – community, nations, cultures
- Values- as exemplified by athletes, fans, communities
- Cultural differences or traditions
- Psychology or sociology of sport
- Historical perspectives on sport and athletes
- Sport and community building
- Nationalism and ethnic identity in sport
- Exclusionary and inclusionary practices in sport: access, equity and their social benefits
- Human rights in sport

## Sport and Health

*On the relationship of sports participation to physical, mental, or emotional health and wellbeing. Includes the study of health, nutrition, exercise science, sports medicine, and biomechanics. Examines the relationships between health/physical fitness and other aspects of life (cognitive abilities, work performance, social interactions).*

- Exercise, fitness, and physical wellbeing
- Sport and recreation in psycho-social wellbeing
- Sports medicine and health sciences
- Drugs in sport
- Exercise science, sport biomechanics, functional anatomy
- Sports injury--prevention, identification, rehabilitation
- Sports nutrition and exercise metabolism
- Sports and disabilities
- Health and fitness in the workplace

## Sports Education

*On learning about and through sport. Includes physical and health education in schools and communities, teaching and coaching techniques. Examines how sports programs in schools and communities promote learning, tolerance, social cohesion, and community development.*

- Physical and sports education
- Health education in schools and communities
- Community based youth sports
- Sports programs in schools, colleges, and universities
- Coaching and instructional, motivational strategies

## Sports Management and Commercialization

On sports organizations, leadership, and management. Considers sports and sporting events as commercial activities. Explores the impact of sports and sporting events on communities, nations, international relations. Includes sports as a profession and the roles of professionals (athletes, coaches, media and marketing professionals) within it. Examines policies, rules and regulations, and laws related to governance and participation.

- Management of sports organizations and sporting events
- Marketing, branding, and building a fan base
- Communications and media coverage of sports
- Sponsorship, licensing and advertising in sport
- Commercialization, commoditization and privatization of sport
- Professionals in sport
- Sports facilities: design and management
- Adjudication, refereeing, rule making and game governance

## Jörg Krieger

Associate Professor, Aarhus University, Denmark & University of Inland Norway, Lillehammer, Norway



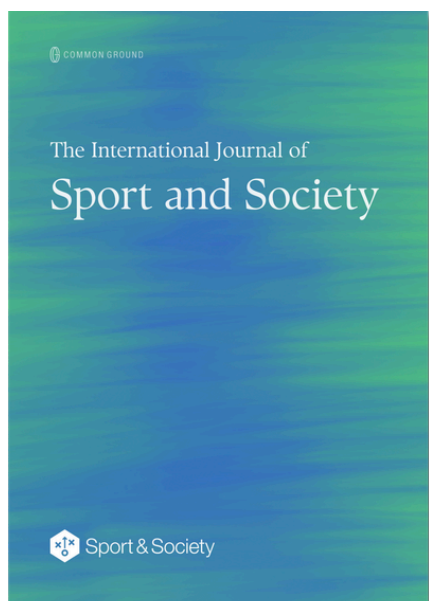
Jörg Krieger is Associate Professor of Sport and Body Culture at Aarhus University and holds a professor II position at the University Inland Norway. In his research, he examines the historical evolution of elite sport and seeks to understand power relations and the institutionalization of ethical standards in the Olympic Movement. His main research topics are the relationship between politics and international sport, anti-doping, athlete activism, and women in sport. He has written several books on international elite sport, including *National Symbols and the Olympic Games*, *Power and Politics in World Athletics* (both with Routledge), *Women in the Olympics* and *Dope Hunters* (both with Common Ground). Jörg is the Chair of the Sport & Society Research Network, the International Network for Doping Research, and the Lillehammer Olympic & Paralympic Studies Centre. He has advised and collaborated with governing bodies of sport, independent sport organizations and political institutions such as the United Nation's Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Council of Europe.

The **Sport & Society Research Network** is grateful for the foundational contributions, ongoing support, and continued service of our Advisory Board.

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# The International Journal of **Sport and Society**



## The International Journal of Sport and Society

The International Journal of Sport and Society provides a forum for wide-ranging and interdisciplinary examination of sport, including: the history, sociology, and psychology of sport; sports medicine and health; physical and health education; and sports administration and management. The discussions in the journal range from broad conceptualizations of the fundamental logic of sport, to highly localized readings of sporting practices in particular times and places.

As well as articles of a traditional scholarly type, this journal invites case studies that take the form of presentations of practice—including documentation of sports practices and exegeses analyzing the social effects of those practices.

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- Scopus (Elsevier)

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## Journal Editor

### Jörg Krieger

Associate Professor, Aarhus University, Denmark & University of Inland Norway, Lillehammer, Norway



Jörg Krieger is Associate Professor of Sport and Body Culture at Aarhus University and holds a professor II position at the University Inland Norway. In his research, he examines the historical evolution of elite sport and seeks to understand power relations and the institutionalization of ethical standards in the Olympic Movement. His main research topics are the relationship between politics and international sport, anti-doping, athlete activism, and women in sport. He has written several books on international elite sport, including *National Symbols and the Olympic Games*, *Power and Politics in World Athletics* (both with Routledge), *Women in the Olympics* and *Dope Hunters* (both with Common Ground). Jörg is the Chair of the Sport & Society Research Network, the International Network for Doping Research, and the Lillehammer Olympic & Paralympic Studies Centre. He has advised and collaborated with governing bodies of sport, independent sport organizations and political institutions such as the United Nation's Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Council of Europe.

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Common Ground Research Networks (Not-for-Profit) is proud to be a signatory to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Publishers Compact. Launched in collaboration with the International Publishers Association, the compact "features 10 action points that publishers, publishing associations, and others can commit to undertaking in order to accelerate progress to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Signatories aspire to develop sustainable practices and act as champions of the SDGs, publishing books and journals that will help inform, develop and inspire action in that direction."

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# Seventeenth International Conference on Sport & Society



Founded in 2010, the Sport & Society Research Network is brought together around a common interest in cultural, political, and economic relationships of sport to society.

## Past Events

- 2010 - UBC Robeson Square, Vancouver, Canada
- 2012 - Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK
- 2013 - University Centre, Chicago, USA
- 2014 - Universidade Salgado de Oliveira, Niterói, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 2015 - University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada
- 2016 - University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, USA
- 2017 - Imperial College, London, UK
- 2018 - Florida International University, Miami, USA
- 2019 - Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada
- 2020 - University of Granada, Granada, Spain (Virtual)
- 2021 - University of Granada, Granada, Spain (Virtual)
- 2022 - Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark
- 2023 - University of Nevada, Las Vegas, USA
- 2024 - University of Granada, Granada, Spain
- 2025 - Monash University, Melbourne, Australia

The **Sport & Society Research Network** is thankful for the contributions and support of the following organizations.





**Dr. Jörg Krieger**

Associate Professor, Aarhus University,  
Denmark & University of Inland Norway,  
Lillehammer, Norway



**Petur Mittún**

Secretary General of The Faroese  
Confederation of Sports and Olympic  
Committee, Faroe Islands



**Ole Henrik Somby**

Project Manager for the Ovttas project in Sámi  
Valáštallan Lihttu, Norway

**Join us for the Opening Plenary Panel on Wednesday, 10 June at 5:00 PM  
at the Norwegian Olympic Museum, taking place after the Conference Tour.**



**Svein Erik Nordhagen**

Associate Professor, University of Inland Norway, Lillehammer, Norway



**Anne Tjønndal**

Professor, Nord University, Norway

**The Plenary Panel will be held on Friday, 12 June at 9:00 AM at the University of Inland Norway.**

## Usva Friman

Assistant Professor of Game Studies and Co-Director of the Game Research Lab, Tampere University, Finland



### **"Why and How Should we (still) Talk about Gender in E-Sports: Lessons Learnt from Studying Nordic E-Sports"**

Assistant Professor of Game Studies and Co-Director of the Game Research Lab at Tampere University, Finland. Her research focuses on cultural participation and agency, as well as DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) questions, in digital gaming and sports. In 2025–2029, she is an Academy Research Fellow and PI of the ENDGAME project funded by the Research Council of Finland.

*This Plenary Session will be moderated by Elin Yoojung Moen, Vice President of the Norwegian Sports Federation and Vice President of the European Sports Federation.*

**The Plenary Session will be held on Thursday, 11 June at 9:30 AM at the University of Inland Norway.**

Each year a small number of Emerging Scholar Awards are given to outstanding early-career scholars or graduate students. Here are our 2026 Emerging Scholar Award Winners.

## Alexandra Maris

State University of New York at  
Binghamton, United States



## Shubham Jain

University of Cambridge,  
United Kingdom



## Natalia Xanthopoulos

University of Portsmouth,  
United Kingdom



## Elizabeth Ratcliff

Louisiana State University,  
United States



## Rita Pires

University of Inland,  
Norway



## Umair Asif

University of Quebec in  
Montreal, Canada



## Samantha Wary

Millersville University,  
United States



## Fariq Ahmed

Government College University,  
Pakistan



## Vitaly Kazakov

Aarhus University,  
Denmark



**Renhui Feng**

Chengdu Sport University,  
China



**Nayoung Ahn**

Bournemouth University,  
United Kingdom



**María Martha Margarita Silva  
González**

Secihti Uanl UVM,  
Mexico



**Hannah Borenstein**

FIU,  
United States



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University of Inland Norway,  
Norway



**AJ Fallon-Korb**

SUNY Cortland, United  
States



**Frida A. Ejderstedt**

University of Portsmouth,  
England



## Online Welcome and Training Session

Join other delegates for a pre-conference welcome reception and training session. This special event will walk you through the CGScholar Event Mircosite so you have a rich online experience by learning how to comment and participate online. It will also teach delegates how to update their profile and Presenter Pages in order to add digital media: video, sound, other files. This will be held "live" via Zoom.

**10 June 2026 - 17:00 PM (Norway Time Zone) / 10:00AM (Central Standard Time USA)**

## Online Talking Circle

Talking Circles are a distinctive feature of our in-person conference, and this year we are also taking them online. Talking Circles offer an opportunity to meet other delegates face-to-face, and engage in extended discussion about the issues and concerns they feel are of utmost importance to that segment of the Research Network. Participation is open, encouraged, and supported.

**12 June 2026 - 17:00 PM (Norway Time Zone) / 10:00AM (Central Standard Time USA)**

## Conference Tour - 10 June 2026

The Norwegian Olympic Museum in Lillehammer is a top modern and exciting museum. Be enchanted by unforgettable Olympic moments made by athletes from all over the world, and experience Olympic history from ancient times to the present day.

The Winter Olympics held in Lillehammer in 1994 and Oslo in 1952 are at the heart of the museum's story, evoking memories of two iconic celebrations in Norwegian sports history.

This is a vibrant and engaging museum with much to explore—original medals and artifacts, an immersive biathlon simulator, and captivating films that extend those golden Olympic moments and send shivers down your spine.

**Date:** 10 June 2026

**Time:** 4:00 PM (16:00)

## Conference Dinner - 11 June 2026

Join your fellow delegates for a delicious dinner at Hvelvet.

From the restaurant: "In the former Norges Bank building on Stortorget in Lillehammer you will find Hvelvet restaurant. Here you will get good homemade food in pleasant and informal surroundings. Here you can bring yourself, friends, colleagues, bosses, employees, family, children, customers and guests for dinner.

On the floor above the restaurant we have a cocktail & wine bar, Andre Etasje, where classic cocktails are served with a modern twist. We offer an extensive selection of wines available by the glass and by the bottle. Our cellar is among the largest in the Inland region, featuring over 550 carefully curated wines from renowned wine regions around the world."

### Menu

The evening will begin with a starter, followed by a main course, and conclude with a delightful dessert. Beverages are not included.

**Date:** Thursday, 11 June 2026

**Time:** 19:00 (7:00 PM)

**Location:** Stortorget 1, 2609 Lillehammer, Norway

## Conference Welcome Reception - 10 June 2026

The International Conference on Sport & Society will be hosting a Welcome Reception at the Norwegian Olympic Museum directly following the Plenary Panel "Elite Sport and the Politics of Belonging". Join other delegates and plenary speakers to enjoy drinks and light hors d'oeuvres.

**Date:** 10 June 2026

**Time:** 6:00 PM (18:00)

## Case Study - 11 June 2026

*Case Study: Olympic Legacy Experience at Lillehammer Olympiapark*

Join us for a unique afternoon experience exploring the legacy of the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer. This guided visit to the iconic Olympic Park offers delegates the opportunity to discover one of Norway's most celebrated sporting venues, while gaining insight into its lasting impact on the region.

Participants will travel to the top of the Olympic Park and visit the impressive ski jump arena, followed by a guided tour down to Håkons Hall, where delegates will attend a presentation by the CEO of Lillehammer Olympiapark AS, reflecting on the long-term value and development of Olympic heritage.

### Case Study - Schedule

15:45 - End of conference sessions.

16:00 - Meeting point at the bus stop near Lillehammer Kunstmuseum and transfer to the top of the Olympic Park (approx. 5-10 minutes).

16:15–17:00 - Guided tour from the ski jump arena down to Håkons Hall.

17:00-17:20 - Presentation at Håkons Hall by the CEO of Lillehammer Olympiapark AS.

17:30 - End of activity and return to hotel (approx. 10-minute walk).

**Date:** Thursday, 11 June 2026

**Time:** 16:00 (4:00 PM)

**Cost:** Included in conference registration

**Location:** Bus stop at Lillehammer Kunstmuseum / Art Museum



Common  
Ground  
Research  
Networks

# COMMON GROUND

Founded in 1984, Common Ground is committed to building new kinds of knowledge communities, innovative in their media, and forward-thinking in their messages. Heritage knowledge systems are characterized by vertical separations--of discipline, professional association, institution, and country. Common Ground Research Networks takes some of the pivotal challenges of our time and curates research networks that cut horizontally across legacy knowledge structures. Sustainability, diversity, learning, the future of humanities, the nature of interdisciplinarity, the place of the arts in society, technology's connections with knowledge--these are deeply important questions of our time that require interdisciplinary thinking, global conversations, and cross-institutional intellectual collaborations.

Common Ground Research Networks are meeting places for people, ideas, and dialogue. However, the strength of ideas does not come from finding common denominators. Rather, the power and resilience of these ideas is that they are presented and tested in a shared space where differences can meet and safely connect--differences of perspective, experience, knowledge base, methodology, geographical or cultural origins, and institutional affiliation. These are the kinds of vigorous and sympathetic academic milieus in which the most productive deliberations about the future can be held. We strive to create places of intellectual interaction and imagination that our future deserves.

#### MEMBERS OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS



Common Ground Research Networks is not-for-profit corporation registered in the State of Illinois, USA, organized and operated pursuant to the General Not For Profit Corporation Act of 1986, 805 ILCS 105/101.01, et seq., (the "Act") or the corresponding section of any future Act.

[www.cgnetworks.org](http://www.cgnetworks.org)



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The Common Ground Media Lab is the research and technology arm of Common Ground Research Networks. Common Ground Research Networks has been researching knowledge ecologies and building scholarly communication technologies since 1984.

Since 2009, we have had the fortune of being based in the University of Illinois Research Park while building our latest platform – CGScholar. This is a suite of apps based on the theoretical work of world-renowned scholars from the College of Education and Department of Computer Science at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. CGScholar has been built with the support of funding from the US Department of Education, Illinois Ventures, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The CGScholar platform is being used today by knowledge workers as diverse as: faculty in universities to deliver e-learning experiences; innovative schools wishing to challenge the ways learning and assessment have traditionally worked; and government and non-government organizations connecting local knowledge and experience to wider policy objectives and measurable outcomes. Each of these use cases illustrates the differing of knowledge that CGScholar serves while also opening spaces for new and emerging voices in the world of scholarly communication.

We aim to synthesize these use cases to build a platform that can become a trusted marketplace for knowledge work, one that rigorously democratizes the process of knowledge-making, rewards participants, and offers a secure basis for the sustainable creation and distribution of digital knowledge artifacts.

Our premise has been that media platforms—pre-digital and now also digital—have often not been designed to structure and facilitate a rigorous, democratic, and a sustainable knowledge economy. The Common Ground Media Lab seeks to leverage our own platform – CGScholar – to explore alternatives based on extended dialogue, reflexive feedback, and formal knowledge ontologies. We are developing AI-informed measures of knowledge artifacts, knowledge actors, and digital knowledge communities. We aim to build a trusted marketplace for knowledge work, that rewards participants and sustains knowledge production.

With 27,000 published works and 200,000 users, we have come a long way since our first web app twenty years ago. But we still only see this as the beginning.

As a not-for-profit, we are fundamentally guided by mission: to support the building of better societies and informed citizenries through rigorous and inclusive social knowledge practices, offering in-person and online scholarly communication spaces

## Supporters & Partners

As they say, “it takes a village.” We are thankful for the generous support of:



And to our Research Network members!

[www.cgnetworks.org/medialab](http://www.cgnetworks.org/medialab)



United Nations  
Climate Change

CLIMATE  
NEUTRAL NOW

Climate change is one of the most pressing problems facing our world today. It is in the interests of everyone that we engage in systemic change that averts climate catastrophe. At Common Ground Research Networks, we are committed to playing our part as an agent of transformation, promoting awareness, and making every attempt to lead by example. Our Climate Change: Impacts and Responses Research Network has been a forum for sharing critical findings and engaging scientific, theoretical, and practical issues that are raised by the realities of climate change. We've been a part of global policy debates as official observers at COP26 in Glasgow. And we are signatories of the United Nations Sustainability Publishers Compact and the United Nations Climate Neutral Now Initiative.

## Measuring

In 2022 we start the process of tracking and measuring emissions for all aspects of what we do. The aim is to build a comprehensive picture of our baselines to identify areas where emissions can be reduced and construct a long-term plan of action based on the GHG Emissions Calculation Tool and standard established by the United Nations Climate Neutral Now Initiative.

## Reducing

At the same time, we are not waiting to act. Here are some of the "low hanging fruit" initiatives we are moving on immediately: all conference programs from print to electronic-only; removing single-use cups and offering reusable bottles at all our conferences; working closely with all vendors, suppliers, and distributors on how we can work together to reduce waste; offering robust online options as a pathway to minimize travel. And this is only a small sample of what we'll be doing in the short term.

## Contributing

As we work towards establishing and setting net-zero targets by 2050, as enshrined in the Paris Agreement and United Nations Climate Neutral Now Initiative, and to make further inroads in mitigating our impacts today, we are participating in the United Nations Carbon Offset program. As we see climate change as having broad social, economic, and political consequences, we are investing in the following projects.

- Fiji Nadarivatu Hydropower Project
- DelAgua Public Health Program in Eastern Africa
- Jangi Wind Farm in Gujarat

## Long Term Goals

We're committing to long-term science-based net-zero targets for our operations – and we believe we can do this much sooner than 2050. We'll be reporting annually via The Climate Neutral Now reporting mechanism to transparently communicate how we are meeting our commitments to climate action.

[www.cgnetworks.org/about/climate-pledge](http://www.cgnetworks.org/about/climate-pledge)