



WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY OF SPORT “60 YEARS OF THE SOCIOLOGY OF SPORT: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE TRAJECTORIES”

Republic of Korea (South Korea), 8–11 July 2025

This year’s International Sociology of Sport Association (ISSA) congress was situated in Seoul, the capital of South Korea, a dynamic city known for its blend of rich history and modern urban development. As a major cultural and economic hub, Seoul provided an engaging setting for the event. The congress was held at Seoul National University.

The academic programme began with a graduate student workshop, which discussed pathways to an academic career and outlined guidelines for academic publishing. This was followed by a keynote address, “The Sociology of Sport: From Positivist to Post-truth Science” by Professor Dominic Malcolm, which highlighted the future direction of the sociology of sport in light of twenty-first century politics of knowledge and called for the development of a ‘theory of sport’ to achieve greater academic and social influence. The programme included three panel sessions, featuring a diverse range of topics and opportunities for discussion, covering themes related to the sociology of sport, such as climate action and sustainability, empowerment and gender dynamics, and equality, with a focus on de-centring Western hegemony.



The congress sessions featured over 250 oral presentations covering a wide range of topics within the sociology of sport. Key themes included the social, cultural, political, organizational, and educational dimensions of sport, as well as issues related to gender, power relations, globalization, media, technology, violence, and inclusion. Together with poster presentations, these diverse perspectives fostered rich and engaging discussions during the sessions and in informal exchanges during social breaks.

The rich programme concluded with the ISSA 60th Anniversary Event, featuring inspiring words from Professor Parisa Safai, President of ISSA, and an engaging cultural programme prepared by the host partner organization, the Korean Society for the Sociology of Sport (KSSS).

While the mornings were filled with presentations and talks, the afternoons offered a series of organized social activities. These provided participants with the opportunity to explore Seoul, enjoy its vibrant culinary scene, visit technology-focused shopping districts, and discover its diverse museums. We are now looking forward to the next ISSA Congress, which will be hosted jointly by ISSA and the European Association for Sociology of Sport in 2026. The event will take place in Jyväskylä, Finland, and promises an engaging programme under the theme: Responsibilities and Responses of Sport in Contemporary Society.

Ana Cikač

SVETOVNI KONGRES SOCIOLOGIJE ŠPORTA »60 LET SOCIOLOGIJE ŠPORTA: PRETEKLOST, SEDANJOST IN PRIHODNJI TRENDI«

Seul, Južna Koreja, 8.–11. julij 2025

Tokrat je bil kongres Mednarodnega združenja za sociologijo športa (*International Sociology of Sport Association – ISSA*) organiziran v Seulu, dinamičnem glavnem mestu Republike Južne Koreje, znanem po združevanju bogate zgodovine in sodobnega urbanega razvoja. Kot pomembno kulturno in gospodarsko središče se je Seul izkazal za privlačno lokacijo kongresa, ki je potekal v prostorih nacionalne univerze Seul v Južni Koreji.

Akademski program se je začel z delavnico za magistrske in doktorske študente, ki je obravnavala poti akademske kariere in dala napotke za objavo znanstvenih besedil. Sledil je osrednji govor profesorja Dominica Malcolma Sociologija športa: od pozitivizma do znanosti v dobi postresničnosti (*The Sociology of Sport: From Positivist to Post-truth Science*), v katerem je poudaril prihodnje usmeritve sociologije športa kot znanstvenoraziskovalne discipline v kontekstu politik znanja 21. stoletja ter pozval k razvoju »teorije športa« za večji akademski in družbeni vpliv. Program je vključeval tri diskusijske seje z raznolikimi temami, ki so obravnavale vprašanja s področja sociologije športa, kot so podnebne spremembe in trajnostni razvoj, opolnomočenje in dinamika spolov ter enakopravnost v športu, s posebnim poudarkom na zmanjševanju zahodne hegemonije.



Kongres je vključeval več kot 250 ustnih predstavitev, ki so zajemale širok spekter tem iz sociologije športa, med drugim družbene, kulturne, politične, organizacijske in pedagoške dimenzije športa, ter vprašanja spola, razmerij moči, globalizacije, medijev, tehnologije, nasilja in integracije. Skupaj s plakatnimi predstavitvami so ti različni vidiki spodbujali bogate in angažirane razprave med sejami in v neformalnih pogovorih med odmori.

Pester program se je končal s sklepnim dogodkom ob 60. obletnici delovanja združenja ISSA, ki je vključeval navdihujoče besede predsednice profesorice Parise Safai in zanimiv kulturni program, ki ga je pripravilo korejsko združenje za sociologijo športa (*Korean Society for the Sociology of Sport – KSSS*) kot gostujoča partnerska organizacija.

Dopoldanske predstavitve in predavanja so dopolnjevali popoldnevi z organiziranimi družabnimi dejavnostmi, ki so udeležencem omogočile raziskovanje Seula, uživanje v živahni kulinarčni ponudbi mesta, obisk tehnološko usmerjenih nakupovalnih središč in odkrivanje inovativnih muzejev.

Z velikim pričakovanjem se veselimo naslednjega kongresa ISSA, ki bo leta 2026 soorganiziran z Evropskim združenjem za sociologijo športa (*European Association for Sociology of Sport – EASS*). Dogodek bo potekal v mestu Jyväskylä na Finskem. Obeta se zanimiv program na temo Odgovornosti in odzivi športa v sodobni družbi (*Responsibilities and Responses of Sport in Contemporary Society*).

Ana Cikač