

Oct 2nd, 2:15 PM - 3:45 PM

Realizing the Right to Sport to Address the Socialization and Trauma Healing of Children in Refugee Camps (abstract)

Konstantinos Koutsoumpas
University of Massachusetts Boston

Follow this and additional works at: https://ecommons.udayton.edu/human_rights

Part of the [Peace and Conflict Studies Commons](#), [Policy Design, Analysis, and Evaluation Commons](#), [Policy History, Theory, and Methods Commons](#), [Politics and Social Change Commons](#), and the [Work, Economy and Organizations Commons](#)

Koutsoumpas, Konstantinos, "Realizing the Right to Sport to Address the Socialization and Trauma Healing of Children in Refugee Camps (abstract)" (2015). *The Social Practice of Human Rights: Charting the Frontiers of Research and Advocacy*. 2.
https://ecommons.udayton.edu/human_rights/2015/humanitarianconcerns/2

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by the Human Rights Center at eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Social Practice of Human Rights: Charting the Frontiers of Research and Advocacy by an authorized administrator of eCommons. For more information, please contact frice1@udayton.edu, mschlengen1@udayton.edu.

The Social Practice of Human Rights: Charting the Frontiers of Research and Advocacy

2015 Conference of the University of Dayton Human Rights Center

Oct. 1-3, 2015, Dayton, Ohio

For the archive of the conference, see http://ecommons.udayton.edu/human_rights/2015/

Research Panel: Humanitarian Concerns

Presenter: Konstantinos Koutsoumpas, University of Massachusetts, Boston

Title: Realizing the Right to Sport to Address the Socialization and Trauma Healing of Children in Refugee Camps

Abstract: The forced displacement of human beings around the globe as a result of natural and humane disasters has placed great social, political and economical pressure on the international system like never before. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)(2012), there are approximately 35.8 million people of concern to UNHCR, including refugees, internally displaced people, people affected by major natural disasters, stateless or asylum seekers, and people displaced in urban areas. Almost half of this forcibly displaced population is children (UNHCR, 2014).

Children, in particular, who are exposed to these catastrophic situations, experience adverse consequences on their physiological, behavioural and psychosocial stratum (Betancourt et al., 2012). In addition, these populations encounter challenges at community levels, including the breakdown of communities, increased risk of violence, increased risk of tension within the host communities and increased risk of familial separation (Machel, 1996).

Thus, considering the magnitude of forcibly displaced children in refugee and IDPs camps, as well as, the complexity of their challenges, this paper will examine the pragmatic use of sport as a strategy for healing traumatized refugee and displaced children in catastrophic situations like war and natural disaster. It will review the theoretical underpinnings and practical methods that explain the traumatic experiences of the children and utilize sport and recreation as potentially effective psychosocial interventions in healing the trauma of refugee children in the four systems of the bio-ecological model by Bronfenbrenner and Ceci (1994): (1) ontogenic or biophysical system (2) microsystem, (3) exosystem, and (4) the macrosystem. Lastly, the capacity for designing, implementing and evaluating sports programs in that particular setting and with this population will be explored through two interdependent dimensions of sport and human rights: 1) Sport as a human right and 2) the use of sport to promote human rights.

Keywords: Sport and Recreation, Trauma, Human Rights, Refugees, Children

Biography: Konstantinos Koutsoumpas is a PhD student and graduate assistant in the School for Global Inclusion and Social Development at the University of Massachusetts Boston. He received his BSc from the Democritus University of Thrace, in Greece; MSc from Teesside University in UK and a Fellowship by the Indian Spinal Injuries Centre in India. His studies have an emphasis on the intersection of research, policy and practice to advance sport and human rights as means of transformative empowerment and social change.

References

Betancourt, T. S., Newnham, E. A., Layne, C. M., Kim, S., Steinberg, A. M., Ellis, H., & Birman, D. (2012). Trauma history and psychopathology in waraffected refugee children referred for trauma-related mental health services in the United States. *Journal of traumatic stress, 25*(6), 682-690.

Bronfenbrenner, U., and Ceci, S.J. (1994). Nature-nurture reconceptualized in developmental perspective: A bioecological model. *Psychological Review*, 101

Machel, G. (1996) *Impact of armed conflict on children. Report of the Expert of Secretary General of the United Nations*. New York. United Nations

The UN Refugee Agency (2012). *State of the World's Refugees 2012*. UNCHR. Available at <http://www.unhcr.org/publications/unhcr/sowr2012>

UNHCR (2014). *Who we help. Children*. Available at <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c1e8.html>