Call for Papers

Special Issue of European Physical Education Review

Mental Health and Mental Illness in Physical Education and Youth Sport

Guest Editor: Professor Andy Smith (Edge Hill University, UK)

There is growing global interest in the mental health of individuals, communities and populations, and especially in the increasing prevalence of mental illness (e.g. depression, anxiety, eating and mood disorders, substance use, schizophrenia) and suicide. The links between these public health problems and social inequality are also of significant interest and have generated much debate among sociologists, psychologists, social epidemiologists, and economists as well as policy makers and politicians. They are also now the focus of much education, sport and public health policy. In response to these concerns, physical education and sport are increasingly regarded as playing an important role in the promotion of good mental health and in the prevention and treatment of, and recovery from, mental illness. There has also been a parallel growth in the number, variety and targets of community-based mental health projects located in education and youth sport settings, though evidence for their effectiveness and how these projects are delivered in practice is relatively scarce.

The purpose of this Special Issue of the European Physical Education Review is to generate new knowledge about how physical education and youth sport (including physical activity and exercise) are being used to address mental health and illness in children, young people and youth. Papers which address the following issues – theoretically, empirically and/or methodologically – are especially welcome:

- Education as a setting for addressing mental health and illness through physical education and youth sport
- Community programmes which use physical education and youth sport to target mental health and illness
- Policy analyses of mental health and illness in physical education and youth sport
- The role of physical educationalists and youth sport professionals in the promotion of mental health and prevention and treatment of mental illness
- The use of physical education and youth sport as a means of improving mental health literacy
- The use of social media in addressing mental health and illness through physical education and youth sport
- The effectiveness of interventions and programmes which target individual (e.g. depression, schizophrenia) or comorbid conditions (e.g. depression and anxiety) in physical education and youth sport-based settings
- Multi-, inter- and transdisciplinary approaches to mental health and illness in physical education and youth sport
Papers which address other issues related to the theme of the Special Issue will also be considered, but all papers must draw upon, and be contextualized within, relevant literature in physical education and youth sport.

All papers will be subject to initial screening by the Guest Editor before being sent out (if appropriate) for blind review to at least two anonymous reviewers.

Prospective authors are invited to submit an abstract of their paper by email to the Guest Editor, Professor Andy Smith (Andy.Smith@edgehill.ac.uk), no later than 31 October 2018.

Authors who are invited to submit full versions of their paper are asked to do so no later than 28 February 2019. All papers should be submitted through the journal’s Scholar One site (https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/epe) as part of the normal peer review process. There can be no guarantee that papers which are invited for submission will eventually be published.

Informal enquiries about the Special Issue may be directed by email to Professor Andy Smith.