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Towards a feminist playology: social sport studies and the limits of critique

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STELLINGEN

Behorend bij het proefschrift van Nathanja Alida Elisabeth van den Heuvel

Towards a Feminist Playology **Social Sport Studies and the Limits of Critique**

1. Existing models of interpretation in the field of social sport studies cannot do justice to the data collected for this dissertation. This insufficiency motivates the creation of a new model, called 'Feminist Playology'.
2. Women elite football players experience sacrifice, liberation and subjection in their practice. To understand these experiences as unified, we must appeal to a combination of the theory of play inherited from Johan Huizinga, Eugen Fink and Hans-Georg Gadamer with the insights of Marxism, cultural studies and poststructuralism.
3. The theory of play applied in this dissertation shows that it is not irrational to do things that exceed purposes.
4. The concept of the playing subject brings forth a new way of thinking about freedom and resistance that is currently lacking in the field of social sport studies.
5. The field of social sport studies must renew itself conceptually by incorporating the theory of play, if it aims at an adequate theorization of what it means and takes to become and be an elite sports person.
6. The theory of play promotes an an-economical theory of sacrifice as a way of conceiving of sacrifice as a heterogeneous experience.
7. The field of gender studies would do well to incorporate a non-reductionist notion of the subject, such as the one that emerges from the theory of play, if it aims to be a project of emancipation.
8. Feminist Playology grants the ethical and political significance of play its rightful place.
9. As suggested by the controversies it is currently experiencing around social safety, sexism, racism, homophobia and exploitation, elite sport finds itself in an institutional, ethical and political crisis.
10. The sacrifices that elite sportspeople make for the sake of play demand an ethical response from sport institutions.