**The Organization of Critical Sport Studies in the UK and beyond**

Part of the remit of the UK-Taiwan Critical Sport Network was to consolidate and strengthen the fields in the respective countries. It is notable that in contrast to the natural sciences of sport (in the UK), which come together under the umbrella body of BASES, the social sciences (and humanities) are more divided according to discipline and or topic.

In our first networking event (January 2022) we invited representatives of the most prominent learned societies and representative bodies in the UK to a discussion of how the field organized, and how these various groups might work together or remain independent. Below we scope the field, identifying outlining the structure and activities of (predominantly) UK bodies. We believe these details to be correct as of March 2023.

[British Philosophy of Sport Association](http://philosophyofsport.org.uk/)

The BPSA is a stand alone organisation with links to European and International associations for the philosophy of sport. It has approximately 50 members and many of these live and work outside of the UK. The group has its own journal, *Sport, Ethics and Philosophy*. A programme of annual conferences was suspended during the Covid-19 pandemic and has not resumed, but the online seminar series continues to run. The group also has its own e-mailing list and Twitter account @BritPhilofSport

[British Society of Sport History](https://www.sportinhistory.org/)

With informal links to the European Committee for Sports History and the North American Society for Sport History, BSSH is essentially a stand-alone or unaffiliated organisation. It has approximately 200 members. The Society has it’s own journal, *Sport in History*, and its primary activities centre upon the annual conference (normally held in August) and an online seminar series. The BSSH also runs the Lord Aberdare book prize, offers funding for seminars, conference panels and to support early career researchers, and the website contains links to a series of podcasts. The group’s Twitter account is @BritSportHisSoc

[British Sociological Association Sport Study Group](https://www.britsoc.co.uk/groups/study-groups/sport-study-group/)

The Sport study group is one of about 50 specialist study groups within the BSA. A closely related group is devoted to Leisure and Recreation. The SSG has approximately 230 members. Activities focus on the BSA annual conference (normally held in April) where ‘streams’ devoted to sport sometime feature, as well as events specifically for postgraduate researchers to present their research and one-day seminars that have focussed on teaching the sociology of sport. The SSG also operates a mailing list to publicise events, publications and opportunities.

[Football Collective](https://twitter.com/fb_collective?lang=en)

As the name of suggests the Football Collective is both more subject- than disciplinary-focused. It is also less formally organised than many other comparable bodies. In line with this, it is both free to join and has an extensive (approx. 750) membership. The majority of members are in the UK and about 10% are practitioners rather than academics involved in teaching and research. Historically it has organised annual conferences, and it coordinates a book series for Routledge. The Football Collective is particularly active on digital and social media. It has a youtube channel (and there is a women’s football collective youtube channel), and has an instagram and Twitter account @FB\_Collective

[Leisure Studies Association](https://leisurestudies.org/)

The Leisure Studies Association is both an interdisciplinary and internationally open body which primarily functions in the UK. It has approximately 150 members about two-thirds of whom are based in the UK. It runs an annual conference (normally held in the UK in July). It also has its own journal, *Leisure Studies*. Empirically sport constitutes approximately 50% of the conference and journal proceedings with the rest devoted to other aspects of leisure. The group’s Twitter account is @Leisure\_Studies

[Political Studies Association Sport and Politics Special Interest Group](https://www.psa.ac.uk/specialist-groups/sport-and-politics)

Though part of a broadly international umbrella body (PSA), the sport and politics special interest group is largely UK-oriented. It has approximately 250 members, and its primary activities centre upon the annual conference (normally held in March). The group’s Twitter account is @PSAsportpol

[UK Sports Development Network](http://www.uksdn.org/)

The UKSDN is a broad, interdisciplinary collective that coalesces around theme of community sport development. Distinctively the aim of the UKSDN is to facilitate synergies between researchers and practitioners. Historically activities have included an annual conference but now alternates between an annual in-person conference and an on-line convention. The group also has a podcast series and distributes a quarterly newsletter. Its Twitter account is @UKSDN

Related but more explicitly international organisations include:

[International Society of Qualitative Research in Sport and Exercise](https://www.qrsesoc.com/) @QRSEsoc

[Critical Pedagogies in Sport](https://twitter.com/CritPedSports) @CritPedSports

A challenge with a project like this is knowing who to include and who not to include. If you are part of an organisation that you feel should or could be considered alongside these groups, please get in touch. We understand that this is a dynamic field and are keen to keep developing these networks.