Betwixt and between. Does European dual career policy include migrating athletes?

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Background

- Increasing transnational migration of athletes (Bale & Maguire 1994; Maguire & Falcous 2010)

- Mobility in sport is a sought-after commodity (Engh & Agergaard 2013)

- Expectations of upward career trajectory and enduring socio-economic mobility (Carrington 1986, Poli 2006)

- Short-term employment and career insecurities (Roderick 2006, 2012)
Dual career support?

Dual career support to (national) athletes; Finland, France, Germany, Austria, Denmark, Hungary, Sweden and UK (Aquilina & Henry 2010)

2009-2011 (-2013): Preparatory actions for future EU actions in the field of sport; dual career programmes

2012/13: EU Guidelines on Dual Careers of Athletes

2014-2017: Call for tenders: Study on the minimum quality requirements for dual career services.
A critical case study

- 27.1% of the leading women’s footballers play abroad (N: 1046).
- Little opportunity of financial gains through athletic career and relocation into sports-related jobs.
- African women’s footballers migration into Scandinavian football clubs (N: 30)
So things here wouldn’t get me anywhere back home so it was like a waste of my time. I can’t get into the gymnasium.... But for real I really want to get an education, it bothers me a lot, because education is important. I could feel like I’m losing my brain like (laughs) I want to have contact with my (brain) you know, it’s been a while. (Cathy)
A critical case study

I left education. I choose to play football, and it’s not easy to come back.. You also have to consider the fact that education is not always a way out. (Agnes)
A critical case study

- Postponed career termination
- Remittances and investments in small-business at home
- Loss of residency and work permits at career termination
- Betwixt and between position
Concluding discussion

Critical issues for non-European athletes:

- access to upper secondary education
- relevant education or vocational training
- lacking international courses
- lacking transnational career advice
- relationship and family planning issues
Perspectives

Future research in migrating athletes’ career trajectories:

- political and juridical conditions (in and out of employment)
- field studies in various sports and different European nations
- models; coupling of sport and school (Borggrefe & Cachay 2012)
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