



# FREE

Football Research in  
an Enlarged Europe

# NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4 (2013)

[www.free-project.eu](http://www.free-project.eu)

## Politics & Jerseys, Mobility & Emotions

Football is not just a game, and the game is not just about football. To rephrase Clausewitz's famous aphorism, football can become a political arena and assume the role of politics by other means. This is due to its strong symbolic dimensions, its role as a proxy for political and social dispute, its carnivalesque rituals and playful performances that often bring about social inversion.

Anthropological approaches to analyse the phenomenon of football are becoming increasingly popular. The enthusiastic response to the call for papers for the conference *'Kick it! The Anthropology of European Football'* to be held in Vienna on 25-26 October 2013 provides strong evidence for this trend.

The vast majority of the proposals that were submitted to the conference organisers in Vienna and Poznań aimed at analysing social fields in fan culture and the everyday lives of supporters using anthropological research methods and data collected through ethnographic fieldwork. Many of the speakers have spent a long period of time with football fans trying to understand what fandom means to them and how it is embedded in socio-cultural contexts. Their papers cover a wide range of topics:

The political importance of football is particularly apparent in the Balkans where football and nationalism are deeply entangled. Differences and disagreements are performed and reproduced both on the pitch & in the stands. The tight-knit community of the 'ultras' plays an important role here, and the respective papers presented will illustrate how this specific form of collective identity is created, as well as how inclusion & exclusion are practised & reinforced in encounters with other ultra groups.

Not only do players become increasingly mobile, fans do as well. They travel and use modern communication

methods to follow teams to new places and join new networks. Consequently, space is appropriated in a new and different manner than before and new trans-local fan communities are formed.

Mobility can be for the purposes of leisure and tourism, but also for migration. This leads to the need for fans to participate in a new setting. What is the impact of migration on fan culture – is there such a thing as 'travelling fandom'? What is the significance of an immigrant's 'fan identity' in his or her everyday life?

Material objects are important to football supporters. They are part of the bodily and emotional experience of fans and contribute to their football socialisation.

Apparently, playing and watching football is strongly linked to power structures. What is considered legitimate? While football is often perceived as a predominantly male, heterosexual and white sport in the public imagination, new actors are entering the field and claiming it.

At the same time controversial questions are discussed about the increasing commercialisation of football and the legitimacy of hosting highly costly football mega-events when social spending and welfare are cut back in exchange?

If football has acquired such an important symbolic meaning, it is because it provides a field on which so many social, cultural, political, economic and historical dimensions and antagonisms are negotiated. Anthropology and ethnography are perfectly suited to analyse these multifaceted entanglements and the Vienna conference will give a state-of-the-art overview on current research in the field.

**Alexandra Schwell & Nina Szogs, Universität Wien**

FREE – Football Research in an Enlarged Europe  
is an FP7 project funded under Socio-Economic Sciences & Humanities  
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# Women's football in the spotlight

**FREE conference: 'Women's Football – Played, Watched, Talked About', Copenhagen, 21-22 June 2013**

The fourth of a total of eight academic events organised by the FREE project, the conference on *'Women's Football - Played, Watched, Talked About'* took place at the University of Copenhagen on Friday 21 and Saturday 22 June 2013. The event, organised by **Gertrud Pfister**, **Rikke Schou-Jeppesen** and **Svenja Mintert** in the framework of Work Package 6, brought together over 40 international scholars. As it turned out, the premises of the Department of Nutrition, Exercise and Sports in the Danish capital not only offered excellent conditions for keynote presentations, parallel sessions, informal meetings and talks, but also for playing and watching an evening football match among the participants!

## A new phase in the FREE project

The conference inaugurated the second phase of the event cycle within the FREE project. Following the first phase, with the two historical conferences on *'The origins and birth of a Europe of football'* (Besançon, September 2012) and on *'European Football and Collective Memory'* (Stuttgart, February 2013) respectively, the Copenhagen conference shifted the focus to sociological and anthropological research, which will be deepened further at the Vienna conference in October 2013 (see the detailed programme on page 6).

It is well known that women's football is a latecomer and that until the 1970s women could only sporadically participate in the game which was and is an important social and cultural phenomenon in Europe and beyond.

Even after the official recognition of women's football by the federations, female players had to fight against stereotypes, experienced a lack of support and public attention. It took a long time until they received a measure of respect and appreciation. Over the last years, women's football made a large progress in many areas, e.g. the numbers of players and quality of the game. The question arises whether football's strong tradition of masculinity construction on and off the football field is being challenged today by a 'feminisation' of football, i.e. a growing number of female players and fans and increased interest of men and women in women's football. Do women actually participate in the transnational encounters and dialogues and contribute to European identity? To what extent and in which way are they members of the trans-European fan community?

In this context, the conference in Copenhagen was a very timely event in addressing these questions. Speakers and attending scholars provided insight into state-of-art research on these issues, sharing their research approaches, methods and theoretical concepts as well as their findings.



The lively discussions focused on various aspects of women's football, media coverage and fandom in a variety of European and non-European countries. The conference thus constituted a very relevant and positive step on the way to include women's football on the European research agenda.

## Introduction and keynote lectures

In her introductory remarks, Work Package leader **Gertrud Pfister** provided a short, but precise 'mapping' of opportunities and challenges of women's football and its fans in a process which could be labelled as feminisation. At the same time she put a question mark on this term as there is no doubt that football is still a male domain where players and fans play their 'serious games of men' and where women mainly act as 'flattering mirrors' (Bourdieu).

The three keynote lectures were spread across the conference programme and provided very useful plenary sessions at regular interval, stimulating the discussion.

**Laila Ottesen** (University of Copenhagen) talked about the development and situation of women's football in the host country of the conference, Denmark. In addition, she shared insight on a new Danish initiative to use football as a 'sport for all' concept. Based on qualitative and quantita-

tive research, her presentation provided an overview about the specific history and the current status of women football in Denmark, a country, where around 30 % of young footballers are girls. Moreover, Ottesen presented in detail a new concept of the Danish Football Association named 'Football Fitness'. This programme is in line with a new welfare policy of the Danish State and serves as a recruitment tool to attract new target groups.

**Annette Hofmann** (professor at the Ludwigsburg University of Education and President of the International Society for the History of Sport and Physical Education/ISHPES) presented a paper on an ongoing project on



'Top-level women football coaches: a research perspective'. Information about female football coaches is scarce, and the few available studies show that there is a decisive gender gap in this profession. Therefore new research approaches about the backgrounds and the reasons for men's dominance in coaching is timely and important. Based on a better understanding of these mechanisms of selection and individual career paths, programmes and interventions might be planned and implemented. Hofmann presented rather innovative methods, i.e. biographical narrative and 'grids' and encouraged the audience to take up similar research.

**Stacey Pope** (Durham University) presented a lecture with innovative approaches that closes some gaps in the existing research. She presented the results of an interview study and focussed on fandom of various groups of women as well as on fans of different sports. Drawing on 'grounded theory' concepts, she conducted 85 semi-structured interviews with female fans of men's football (soccer) and rugby union in England. Her findings address the different mean-

ing of sports fandom for different types of women. According to a preliminary model of women's fandom, she identified two fan 'types' ('hot' and 'cool' fans), and two forms of gender performance ('masculine' femininities and 'feminine' femininities). Her results make clear that further cross-comparative studies between fans of different sports are necessary and that women's experiences as fans need to be put on the research agenda.

## Practice, fandom, and media

The parallel sessions focused on the three topics outlined in the call for papers and the conference's title '*Women's Football: Played. Watched. Talked About*'. As a result, the game including the players and the organisations, women and football fandom, as well as the media coverage of women's football were the three themes around which the paper clusters were organised. In addition, we added some papers which had a special interest and specific focus on sociological or psychological aspects of women's football.

### 'Played'. Women's football as practice

The papers in this section presented a variety of approaches. Some presenters talked about the specific history and situation of women's football in their respective countries, e.g. in Poland, Denmark, Brazil, France or Australia. There is a need to emphasise here that some of the information referred to the developments

in countries which have not been researched before. A group of young scholars from Kosovo, where women's football was heavily influenced by political conflicts and the war, provided very new insights.

### 'Watched.' Fandom in Women's Football

In this section it became clear that a potential 'European dialogue' is based on the cross-border contacts and the 'transnational identities' of fans. Two main questions emerged: Is women's football actually a topic of this dialogue and are female players subjects of cross-border identification? And: Are female fans participants in the Europeanisation processes and projects?

The papers presented in the conference provide clear answers: Women are a small number among football fans and their number tends to decrease with the degree of engagement. The large majority of female fans support men's football, in particular their local or national teams. This means that until now women's football contributes little to a Europeanisation of the female populations.

## 'Talked about', Women's Football in the Media

This section was covered by a limited number of presentations. The presenters agreed that women do not play a large role in the 'everyday' news where women's football is nearly non-existent. However, this situation changes when female teams represent their country. An analysis of the media coverage of the Women's World Cup in 2011 showed a large increase of the time and the space presented to the footballers in the print media and in TV broadcasts. It would be important to find out if this increased media interest may be transferred to the matches in the national leagues and how long this would take.

The media coverage was also in the focus of the concluding round-table debate chaired by FREE coordinator Albrecht Sonntag. The discussants were conference organiser and work package leader **Gertrud Pfister**, keynote speaker **Stacey Pope** and the founding director of *Stadio Novo* **Rosarita Cuccoli**, former executive secretary general of the International Association of Sports Newspapers and chair of the European Network on Women and Sport.

The lively debate focussed on various aspects of media coverage of women's sports. It was highlighted that media are of course a business activity: they have no moral obligation to 'promote' female sports in any way. As Ms Cuccoli pointed out, 'women's sport needs to become more attractive, and the media will follow', remark that was followed by a discussion of the numerous interpretations of the term 'attractive'.

As the role of the sports federation is essential, the question of quotas in national and international sport institutions was of course also discussed, especially with regard to the rather positive experiences with quotas in other contexts made in several Scandinavian countries.

Concerning media coverage, however, quotas are inefficient. In general, NGOs of all sorts seem to have a tendency to expect media to events they do not have on the agenda and then complain if coverage is insufficient. As Ms Cuccoli insisted, 'Rather than complain, it is essential to approach the right media in the right way with the right message.' And there are some tools available: awards, for instance, can be an incentive, a better pro-active self-presentation by the actors of women's football, a more efficient branding of women's football as a 'signal of modernity'.

## Conclusion and assessment

### Research findings and perspectives

The presentations at the conference provided an informative overview about women, football and fandom in various countries as well as an in-depth understanding of some of the current issues of scientific discussions. Despite large differences between the football and fan cultures in Europe and beyond, some similarities with regard to women's football emerged: Female players and fans are still the 'other sex' which plays 'another game' than the men.

However, new perspectives emerged, among others, the innovative idea of a women's sport centre. In addition to the presentations mentioned above, Susanna Hedenborg,



professor at Malmö University, informed the participants about the 'World Village of Women's Sport'. This 'village' is in fact a complex which includes sport spaces, teaching rooms and research centres and it is – at the same time – a virtual place for studies about women and sport with a specific focus on football. The village will be built in Malmö. First plans were presented. This seminal concept could be studied and reproduced – maybe in smaller versions – in many different locations.

### Publication outlook

The most relevant papers of the conference will be published in an edited volume, presumably as fourth book in the book series contracted with the publishing house Palgrave Macmillan. Gertrud Pfister, Rikke Schou-Jeppesen and Stacey Pope will be the editors and have already started the selection process.

**Gertrud Pfister**

# Interview with Sport and Citizenship

Sylvain Landa, Deputy Director, Sport and Citizenship

The think-tank **Sport and Citizenship** (<http://www.sportetcitoyennete.com>) has been a civil society partner of the FREE project since its inception. Created in Brussels already six years ago, this dynamic organisation has been committed to establish a European dialogue in the field of sports, building a bridge between different stakeholders: governments, the sport movement, but also the private sector and academic research.

## Why did Sport and Citizenship get interested in the FREE project and become a partner from the beginning?

We learnt about the FREE project even before it was selected by the European commission, and our interest for the project was immediate. It is the first time indeed that football (and sport in general) is the object of an academic, transdisciplinary, European study of this size. In this regard, the support of the European Commission is revealing of a change of attitude: sport is now taken seriously by Brussels, which has not always been the case.

Our think tank, which goal is to study the social impact of sport, and to analyse sports policies, could not remain insensitive to this approach. Furthermore, some of the members of the FREE project have already collaborated with our think tank in the past. It is therefore very natural that we partnered this project and that we closely follow the works and results of these exchanges.

## What can academic research bring to associative activism and vice-versa?

The two worlds are very complementary. Academic research is needed to understand the issues at stake today in the world of sport.

Europe is looking at its identity, its history, its future. It is necessary to put forward what unites citizens, and sport, like culture, is part of it. Many of the items studied within the FREE project (Sport & History, Sport & Diversity, Sport & Identity, Sports Governance) testify to the richness of this activity and the relevance of this study.

Where the associative activism of *Sport and Citizenship* can play a role, is in the appropriation by public powers of the results and data gathered. The link between pure academic research and political decision making is not obvious. These are two worlds which do not speak the same language. The challenge is to make operational some recommendations made in University debates. This is the mission that we set ourselves within *Sport and Citizenship*: act as the transmission belt between civil society and European institutions; fa-

cilitate political decision making through the transmission of scientifically validated elements. This is the role we will also try to play within the FREE project.

## Does football dominate all other sports or can it, on the contrary, be a leader for them?

The impact of football in Europe and in the world is huge. How would it be possible to deny that it is the 'king of sports', practised on every continent? It 'dominates' all the other sports economically and on the media scene but it can also be a leader for sports to be taken into account in public policies. At the European level, does it not constitute one of the rare elements that allow to identify the continent as a whole? Europe is the epicentre of world football. This is how Europe is present in the collective imaginary of football lovers. The *Champions League* has an anthem, a logo and, every other week, it gathers a few hundred of million TV spectators worldwide. This is a social phenomenon worth studying. In the autumn, our think tank will indeed publish a collection of contributions coming from many think tanks and civil society organisations specialised in European integration. Their point of view on sport as a social phenomenon carry important lessons.

## What is at the top of Sport and Citizenship's agenda for 2013-14?

A number of events are planned for the next months. Within the European networks we have been running for the past three years, we published two books on the question of handicap and diversity in sport. We will present them in conferences organised in Brussels.

Many 'Sport Corners' are obviously on the agenda: this is a novel TV debate organised within the European Parliament, with one MEP and a sportsperson. This is the occasion to assess the political agenda and the questions at stake in the European institutions. Finally, the *Sport and Citizenship* review is still published every three months with, among the contributions offered, a regular column by Albrecht Sonntag, creating another link between our think-tank and FREE.



# Kick it! The Anthropology of European Football. Conference Programme

**Friday 25 October 2013**

**Keynote Lecture:** Hani Zubida – *The Manifestations of Politics, Identity and Nationality in Football: The Israeli Case and then some more...*

## Session 1 – Embodiment

Tamar Rapoport, Daniel Regev – *Women's Visibility in the Fandom Arena. Female Fans in Israeli Soccer*

Stine Liv Johansen – *Football as a Mediatized Play Practice: children's fan cultures in everyday life*

Viola Hofmann – *We wear it! The football shirt as body technique and identity-establishing object of knowledge*

## Session 2 – Migration

Gabriele Spinelli – *Blue Man Versus Glen Man: Close Encounters of a Third Kind in a City usually Defined by Sectarian Division*

Nina Szogs – *Translocal strategies of football fans abroad: Galatasaray and Fenerbahçe supporters in Vienna*

Max Mauro – *Long ball or ball to feet? Anthropological perspectives on the game played by teenagers of immigrant background in Ireland*

## Session 3 – Mobility

John McManus – *Building a Turkish fan community: social media, Schengen and Easyjet*

Hendrik Kren – *Groundhopping, a phenomenon in European fan culture*

Stefan Heissenberger – *Travelling identity. About the European community feeling of gay football teams*

## Session 4 – Participation and Resistance

Rolf Husmann – *Blind Football in Europe after Euro Blind 2013. A comparative study of a Paralympic sport in different European countries*

Friederike Faust, Johanna Kösters – *'The Other' kicks back. Subjectivation and subversion among women's football activists.*

Małgorzata Zofia Kowalska (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań) *Euro 2012 in Poznan, Poland. The question of dependency and agency*

## Session 5 – Politics

Başak Alpan – *Is another football possible? Considerations on an alternative fan identity in Turkey and the case of Gençlerbirliği fans*

Seweryn Dmowski, Aleksander Szalański – *Collective Identity of Legia Warszawa Fans? Community, Symbols and Rivalries*

Timm Beichelt – *Four worlds of European football politics*  
Stelios Stylianou, Vivi Theodoropoulou – *Performing Fan Identities: the Role of Politics in the Antagonistic Communication of Football Fans in Cyprus*

## Session 6 – Balkans

Ivan Đorđević, Bojan Žikić – *Football and War in Former Yugoslavia. Serbia and Croatia Two Decades After the Break-up*  
Goran Pavel Santek, Tibor Komar – *The politics of visiting: supporters' exclusion from 2013 football matches between Croatia and Serbia*

Özgür Dirim Özkan – *Football Fandom and Formation of Cultural Differences in Bosnia A Comparative Ethnographic Study on FK Zvezdiznicar and FK Sarajevo Fans in Sarajevo*

**Saturday 26 October 2013**

**Keynote Lecture:** Cornel Sandvoss – *Liquid Life and Solid Support Football Fandom and Identity in the Age of Globalisation*

## Session 7 – Supporters' Groups

Mark Doidge, Martin Lieser – *The Globalisation of Ultras Culture: An International Comparison of Japanese and Italian Fan-groups*

Philipp Budka, Domenico Jacono – *Football fan communities and identity construction: Past and present of 'Ultras Rapid' as sociocultural phenomenon*

Andrew Hodges, Paul Stubbs – *The Paradoxes of Politicisation: football supporters in Croatia*

## Session 8 – Histories

Panagiotis Zestanakis – *'Professionalizing football, commercializing fandom' aspects of football culture in 1980s Athens*

Marizanne Grundlingh, Robert Gordon – *Going for the Reds: Max Gluckman and the Anthropology of Football*

Ori Katz – *'Nostalgic Revolution': Symbolic Boundaries Negotiation in the first Fan- Owned Football Club in Israel*

**Roundtable Discussion** (chaired by Albrecht Sonntag)

Dominik Antonowicz

Niko Besnier

Jochen Bonz

Michał Buchowski

Shlomit Guy

Brigitta Schmidt-Lauber

**Registration for the conference is, of course, FREE!**

**The registration form is available from the FREE website [www.free-project.eu](http://www.free-project.eu)**

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# News from the Network

☞ **Helena Flores Navarro** recently joined the FREE team at the University of Valencia as a Research Assistant. Helena has a degree in Social and Cultural Anthropology and a Master in Gender Studies at the University of Granada (Spain) and University of Lodz (Poland). Her substantive research interests include sexualities, bodies and gender from an ethnographic and feminist perspective. She will be working hand in hand with Professor **Ramón Llopis-Goig** during the project.



☞ FREE Member **Paul Dietschy** was appointed to a full Professorship. Paul is staying at the Université de Franche Comté in Besançon but is moving from the Sports Department to the History Faculty.

☞ **Michał Buchowski** gave a long interview on FREE and football for the Polish radio TOK FM. It can be found here: <http://goo.gl/2KSMQC>

☞ FREE was well represented at the Sport&EU conference in Istanbul. **Dàvid Ranc** presented on the problematic feminisation of football in France, **Borja García** talked about *Keeping private governance private: Is FIFA 'blackmailing' national governments?* while the Ankara team gave two papers: **Başak Alpan** – *Does Qualifying really Qualify? Comparing the Representations of Euro 2008 and Euro 2012 in the Turkish Media* & **Özgehan Şenyuva** (with Kadir Gurten), *The Legal Dimension of Megasport Events: Is Turkey Ready?*

☞ **Nina Szogs** travelled to Tartu in Estonia for her paper *Süper Lig supporters in Vienna: local strategies and transnational ties of football fans abroad* at the International Society for Ethnology and Folklore.

☞ **Ramón Llopis-Goig** recently published two papers: 'Racism, xenophobia and intolerance in Spanish football. Evolution and responses from the government and the civil society' in *Soccer and Society* as well as 'Teams identification and football culture in Spain: A sociological approach' in *Revista Internacional de Ciencias del Deporte*.

☞ **Joanna Welford, Brett Smith & Borja García-**

**García** from Loughborough University, which is responsible for the Governance research strand are starting to analyse their first set of findings following a successful first phase of data collection with football supporters in the UK. Interestingly, before the study is even completed it has led to a policy-related initiative: a disabled supporter realised through filling in his diaries for the project that a policy was inequitable and resolved to change it.

☞ FREE was well represented at the **Football150 conference** organised by UCLAN (University of Central Lancashire) at the **National Football Museum in Manchester** (photo below). **Nils Havemann** presented findings from his history of the Bundesliga (published in German only) *Saturday Half Past Four: New Findings on the Cultural History of the Bundesliga*. **Albrecht Sonntag** talked about *Entrepreneurs of European Football Integration: L'Equipe, France Football and the Construction of a European Public Space*. **Dàvid Ranc** reviewed the findings from his book *Foreign Players and Football Supporters* two years later in *Bosman Comes of Age: A Comparative Study on European Football 18 Years After The Bosman Ruling*. **Paul Dietschy** discussed the pre-eminence of English football in the late 1930s in *Still Masters of the Game?: England and the Continent on the Eve of World War II*. **Joanna Welford** presented a governance paper co-authored with **Borja García-García**: *Whose Football Is It? A Supporters' View of the Current State of the Game in England*. **Svenja Mintert** introduced preliminary results from her PhD work in *Women as Football Fans: Gendered patterns of perception, motivations and practices of supporters in a Danish context*. Meanwhile, former FREE member **Xavier Breuil**, who has moved on to work with the communications team of FIFA talked about his new position in *Football Heritage at the Home of FIFA: Taking Stock and Research Prospect*.

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# Call for Papers

## From Habermas to Fanblogs: Exploring the Public Sphere of European Football Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara 25-26 April 2014

### Rationale

The term *public sphere* is often related to Jürgen Habermas's seminal work *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere* (1962), which was translated into English in 1989. In his work, Habermas focuses on the transformation of *public sphere* from a realm which is distinct both from the state and the market, as put by classical liberal theory, to an area characterised by the commercialisation and consumerisation trends of the mass society from the 19th century onwards (Habermas, 1991).

Habermas's work has been inspiring for many scholars from different disciplines, but the peak moment for Habermasian repercussion within European Studies came when European integration began to be increasingly associated with identity-related and normative aspects of belonging to 'Europe' during the debates on the Maastricht Treaty and the European Constitution respectively. Applying his normative concept to the specific case of European integration, Habermas himself observed that a pan-European public sphere was needed as response 'to the problem of insufficient social integration in the processes of Europeanisation'. Since that time, the transnationalisation of public spheres in Europe has always been a burning issue in scholarly work on European integration.

Over the last years, both growing Euroscepticism and the effects of the economic and financial crisis have put the vital question of 'what binds Europeans together?' high on the agenda. If the process of European integration has taught us one thing, it is that we need to do more justice to understand how and why common experiences, everyday practices and popular culture matter for Europeans. The FREE project ('Football Research in an Enlarged Europe') is based on the assumption that football, as Europe's most widely shared social practice and popular passion capable of reaching out to hundreds of millions of individuals, deserves to be studied rigorously to explore the (possible) construction of a pan-European public sphere.

### Call for papers:

Against this background, you are cordially invited to submit contributions to the FREE conference, *From Habermas to Fanblogs: Exploring the Public Sphere of European Football*, organised by the Centre for European Studies, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey, on 25 and 26 April 2014.

The conference will be exploring four main dimensions of public sphere in relation to football:

**1. Theoretical and conceptual issues around the notion of 'public sphere'.** Where is the link between theories of public sphere and the practice of football in all its different forms? How far can the concept of public sphere be stretched towards including apparently non-political issues relating to popular culture? How can we theorise the persistent pan-European fascination with football?

**2. The contour and scope of the European football space.** Defining what exactly the term 'Europe' encompasses has always been difficult. To what extent does football provide alternative definitions or perceptions? Is 'the Europe of football' a meaningful category? To what extent does the perception of this category vary across the continent? How does the notion of 'migration' in all its forms and dimensions impact the emergence and definition of a pan-European public sphere related to football?

**3. New media – new public sphere?** Technological progress over the past 25 years has given us a myriad of novel ways for the dissemination of information. New media and social networks have enabled 'ordinary people' to appear in new roles as producers. Football, already the object of massive discourse in traditional media, is omnipresent in new media as well. What does this mean for the construction of a transnational public sphere? And, from a methodological perspective, what are the best ways to explore and interpret new media discourse about football across the continent?

**4. Football stadia as spaces of political expression.** Football stadia regularly bring together thousands of citizens in a very particular space and context. What forms of political expression are possible in these spaces? What is the impact of this expression in different places across and around Europe? There are numerous fan groups throughout Europe which openly associate themselves with certain political ideas – do they contribute to a 'public sphere' across borders?

### Submission of proposals:

Please send your proposal (max 2 pages) by 1 January 2014 to the conference organisers Assist. Prof. Dr. Basak Alpan ([balpan@metu.edu.tr](mailto:balpan@metu.edu.tr)) and Assist. Prof. Dr. Özgehan Şenyuva ([senyuva@metu.edu.tr](mailto:senyuva@metu.edu.tr)). The participants will be informed by 1 February 2014. Papers will be accepted under the condition that a working paper version is submitted to the conference committee by 15 April 2014 at the latest. All working papers will be published online on the FREE project website and a selection of the best ones will be considered for publication in an edited volume of the *Football in an Enlarged Europe* book series published by Palgrave Macmillan.