



Group identities and self-representation in East German sport: an analysis of supporters' discourse by Julien Beaufils

« **Group identities and self-representation in East German sport: an analysis of supporters' discourse** »

- Julien Beaufils, Lecturer at the University of Rennes 2

Julien Beaufils has been a senior lecturer in the LEA department at the University of Rennes 2 since September 2022 and is attached to the LIDILE. He holds a doctorate in Germanic Studies and is the author of a dissertation to be defended in 2019 at the Université Sorbonne Nouvelle - Paris 3 on the history of the Deutsche Hochschule für Körperkultur in Leipzig, a school specialising in sports science, studied as a miniature of the East German sports system. Her research focuses on the links between sport, diplomacy and identity discourse in the GDR and the new German Länder.

Abstract

High-level sport, by virtue of its universalism and symbolic power, is a well-known factor in collective identification (Elias and Dunning 1994). This symbolic power acts like a “social magnifying glass” (De Waele 2008), amplifying social and identity-related phenomena that are present, but diffuse, in society.

This conference, which is intended to be the first step in a future research project, will examine the sense of belonging of supporters of clubs in the new German Länder since reunification to an East German identity that is often difficult to define (Mau 2021). In particular, we will use the various productions of the fans themselves (songs in the stadiums, publications, etc.) as support for this study.

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