

WL NEWS

ISSUE 51

TRANSFORMING LEISURE TOGETHER



November 2023

Editorial

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member?
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news here!

Dear members, dear colleagues,

In this issue we share with you some news about our most recent work, including the international recognition of our Communications and Events Manager, Dr. Mireia Iglesias, among the top 50 of the Most Influential People in the Events Industry or about the representation of WLO within the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) Culture & Creativity Policy Club.

We also compiled some of the most recent publications in the field of leisure, including the newest content published in the *World Leisure Journal* (WLJ). Relevant opportunities are also available just by scrolling down, in the form of call for papers for the WLJ and a call for WLO Board of directors (which is about to close!). Among the upcoming events, a new webinar organized by the WLO Special Interest Group on Leisure Management (LM SIG) is to be highlighted.

We close this issue with the sad news of the passing of Danilo Santos de Miranda, Director of Sesc São Paulo, and re-share a recent conversation we had with him on leisure and inclusion, as a way to honor his memory and tremendous contribution to leisure development in Brazil and beyond.

Yours truly,

Dr. Cristina Ortega Nuere
WLO Chief Operating Officer



WLO News



Source: *UNWTO*

First book of WL Book Series, International Perspectives in Sport Tourism, included within the UNWTO Programme of Work 2024

On October 16, 2023, during the 44th Affiliate Members Plenary Session celebrated in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, UNWTO announced that the book *International Perspectives in Sport Tourism*, edited by Dr. Miklos Bánhidi and Dr. Farhad Moghimehfar, was accepted and included within its 2024 Programme of Work. This book is the first of the WL Book Series published by Routledge.

UNWTO includes every year within its Programme of Work initiatives and activities developed by its Affiliate Members that are aligned with the principles, working lines and priorities of this organization.



WLO becomes part of the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) Culture & Creativity Policy Club

WLO has recently become part of the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) Culture & Creativity Policy Club, whose first annual Forum was held in Bilbao, Spain, on October 27, 2023. The EIT is a European Union body aimed at driving innovation bringing together organizations across business, education, and research. There is an ecosystem of partnership for each global challenge, called Knowledge and Innovation Communities. In this regard, the EIT Culture & Creativity would be the ecosystem aimed at bringing creatives from all walks of life together to rethink how the cultural and creative sectors and industries are currently run and to promote a green and digital transition.

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WLO Communication & Events Coordinator, Mireia Iglesias PhD., recognized as one of The Most Influential People in the Events Industry

Our WLO Communication and Events Coordinator, Mireia Iglesias PhD., has been recognized among the top 50 of The Most Influential People in the Events Industry as for the Eventex index. The index recognizes exceptional individuals from around the globe who have made an impact with their creativity, vision, and capacity for innovation. With over a decade of professional experience Mireia currently and since 2016 she has been developing her main activity as a communication and events coordinator at the World Leisure Organization (WLO), where she combines production management and design of events and programs, and international relations on a global scale. This recognition comes in a very special year and moment, as she just became a mother six months ago. Congratulations Mireia!



WLCE Zhejiang University celebrates the 2023 International Sports and Leisure Forum

On November 11, 2023, the 2023 International Sports and Leisure Forum annually organized by the World Leisure Center of Excellence Zhejiang University (WLCE ZJU) took place in hybrid format. This edition was devoted to the theme *Empower Sports & Leisure with Data Intelligence* and counted on the participation of high-level international and national speakers from several prestigious universities in China and the rest of the world. Among the audience attending this forum, there were many students as well who were present and enjoyed the high-quality interventions.

WLO delegation formed by WLO Chief Operating Officer Cristina Ortega, WLO Vicechair Lawal Marafa and WLCE ZJU director and Board member Jane Zhou attended the forum in-person. It also counted with the online participation of WLO Chair Joanne Schroeder, WLO Board member Marcel Bastiaansen, and WLO family members: World Leisure Youth Ambassadors chair Miklos Banhidi and WL Leisure Management Special Interest Group co-chair John Tower.

The presentation by Dr. Jane Zhou, WLO Board member and WLCE ZJU director, on the history and evolution of this WLCE, provided an overview of the relevant contribution this center has made to the development of the leisure field in China and beyond. The WLCE at ZJU has developed activities and good practices that may be exemplary for other HEIs in the field of leisure pursuing excellence around the world.

Research



New chairs appointed for the WL Leisure and Innovation SIG and WL Community and Economic Development SIG

This month we welcomed to the Special Interest Group (SIG) family two newly appointed chairs of WL SIG on Leisure and Innovation and WL SIG on Community and Economic Development. Dr. Márta Wilhelm from WLCE University of Pécs, Hungary, has been elected as chair of the WL SIG on Leisure and Innovation. This Special Interest Group aims at looking into the diverse fields of innovation in leisure contexts, practices, and theories. In a world where change is constant, new challenges and practices arise, also in leisure. Dr. Oksana Grybovych from University of Northern Iowa, US, has been appointed as chair of the WL SIG on Community and Economic Development. This Special Interest Group aims at looking into diverse aspects of leisure industry in today's lives, from local and global communities to the influence of economic stability and instability on individuals, organizations, and continents. We look forward to starting to work on upcoming planned activities for these two SIGs!



Learn about the WLO Special Interest Group on Diversity, Access & Inclusion and join!

The WLO Special Interest Group (SIG) on Diversity, Access & Inclusion has almost 200 members representing 42 countries. Members are involved in teaching, research, and practice in areas such as disability, LGBTQA+, aging, event management and inclusive tourism. The group holds an annual virtual meeting to discuss priorities and set goals for the year. Members have indicated updating the website, creating a database of membership expertise, contributing to World Leisure Congress, and collaborating on research projects as priorities for the group. Current group members have been active in presenting and chairing

World Leisure Congress activities, received WLO Strategic Priorities Grants to further disability initiatives and research, and served as WLO board members. The upcoming World Leisure Congress in Dunedin, New Zealand will feature two special sessions related to Diversity, Access, and Inclusion in Global Research. One session will provide information about the Diversity, Access, and Inclusion Special Interest Group, highlight current activities, and provide opportunity to meet other members to develop collaborations. The other will feature research aligned with the priorities of the group. New members are welcome and a summary of Diversity, Access and Inclusion activities at World Leisure Congress will be provided upon request for anyone interested (lmische-lawson@kumc.edu).

Industry



Physical literacy

By Liz Terry

A new initiative is defining and promoting physical literacy, creating a movement that could be a game-changer for the health and fitness industry. Having a solid foundation in physical literacy from the early years onwards enables people to maintain their fitness levels throughout life, so they can realise their potential in their prime, while reducing the likelihood of things such as life changing falls in older age.

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From *Health Club Management*
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Sign up for free magazines and ezines at

<http://leisuremedia.com/signup>

Network



promotion and advocacy of the parks and leisure industry through their personal and professional endeavors. Congratulations, John!

WL Leisure Management SIG Chair, Dr. John Tower, awarded with the Parks and Leisure Australia's (PLA) Frank Stewart Award

Dr. John Tower, chair of the WLO Leisure Management Special Interest Group (LM SIG), has been awarded with the Parks and Leisure Australia's (PLA) Frank Stewart Award. On October 24, 2023, at the PLA and World Urban Parks Congress, Dr. Tower received the PLA Frank Stewart Distinguished Service Award. The Frank Stewart Award is Parks and Leisure Australia's highest individual honor and is awarded to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the development,



General assembly ends with a clear vision for UNWTO

Source: *UNWTO*

UNWTO's commitment to moving closer to its members and being on the ground in every region was further emphasized as the Assembly was given an update on work to establish new Regional and Thematic offices. (...) The General Assembly further built on UNWTO's leading work to create a more ethical and accessible sector, while also increasing confidence in travel and tourism. The Global Code of Ethics were the foundation for UNWTO becoming a UN agency. In Samarkand, the Assembly approved new members to serve on the World Committee of Tourism Ethics, with a clear commitment to diversity. Members also looked ahead to the International Conference on Accessible Tourism, due to take place in San Marino in November.

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Publications

WORLD LEISURE JOURNAL

Just released publications by *World Leisure Journal*

We invite you to read a selection of publications during the month of November by *World Leisure Journal*:

Research Article:

Public health perspectives and changed leisure behaviours among sport spectators following COVID-19

Emily Messina & Anthony Weems

The COVID-19 pandemic's effect on family leisure activities of working parents with pre-school aged children

Ilanza Perold, Brendon Knott & Chris Young

News:

WLO to launch its brand-new visual identity and website

WLO Secretariat

Global South Leisure Perspectives:

Trazas del colonialismo intelectual en los estudios de ocio y recreación en Latinoamérica

Alixon David Reyes Rodríguez

From the Global North to the Global South: the contribution of equestrian sport and leisure to children's informal learning

Carlos Monterrubio & Sandy Silva

Book Review:

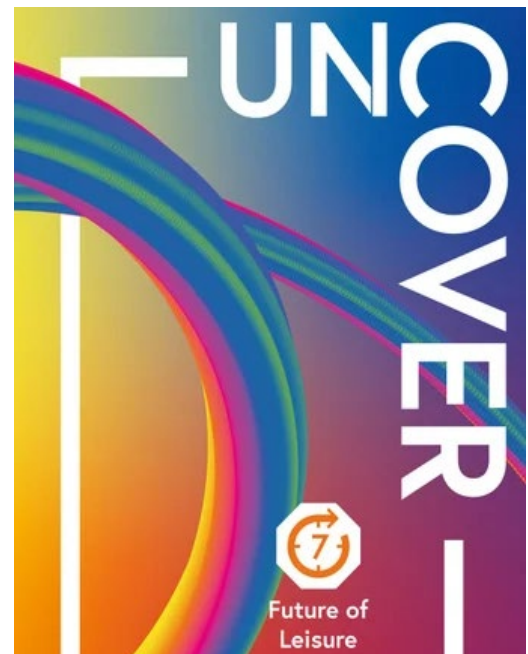
Difficult heritage and immersive experiences
edited by Agiatis Benardou and Anna Maria Droumpouki, New York, Routledge, 2023 182 pages, ISBN 9781032060866

Katie Stringer Clary



FREE ACCESS to *WL Journal* articles during November

Thanks to our publisher Taylor and Francis, the following articles from the *World Leisure Journal* which will be available for free access consultation during November: “[An effective leisure program for older people with diabetes](#)” (2017) by Rebekkah Middleton, Lorna Moxham & Dominique Parrish; “[Estimating transport carbon footprints in the operation of tourism businesses: a gravity model approach](#)” (2011) by Eric Lwanga Kanyoke and “[Solo female travellers’ memorable experiences: positive encounters with male strangers](#)” (2021) by Chiu-Ping Su & Tsung-Chiung Wu. The first two articles are granted free access on the occasion of the World Diabetes Day – 14th November– and the World Sustainable Transport Day – 26th November–, respectively. The last article, on its turn, is part of the Global South Leisure Perspectives.



New WLO article published in the *Uncovers* Magazine Future of Leisure issue

This month, a new issue of the WLCE Breda University of Applied Sciences magazine, *Uncovers*, has been published under the theme Future of Leisure and it includes a *World Leisure Organization on Future of Leisure. A joint perspective article*. For this contribution, we counted on the participation of Dr. John Tower, co-chair of WL SIG Leisure Management, Dr. Lisa Mische-Lawson, chair of the WL SIG Diversity, Access and Inclusion, Dr. Marc-André Lavigne, chair of the WLCE Université du Québec à Trois Rivières, Prof. Marie Young, co-chair of the WL SIG Leisure and Education, and Dr. Aggie Weighill, chair of WLCE Vancouver Island University. This collaborative article helped to respond from a global perspectives which characterized the WLO some questions related to the future of leisure sector and its role within different challenges that the world is facing nowadays.

To read the full issue, please click [here](#).

Synergy Solutions for a World in Crisis: Tackling Climate and SDG Action Together

REPORT ON STRENGTHENING THE EVIDENCE BASE | FIRST EDITION 2023

UN Report – Synergy Solutions for a World in Crisis: Tackling Climate and SDG Action Together

Publisher: UNDESA & UNFCCC

The report is designed to provide a broad overview of available data and evidence, insights from experts on the frontlines, and recommendations for enhancing synergistic action across the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. This first edition will form the basis for future iterations, which will entail a wider scope of sectors, and thematic areas and deep dives on specific issues pertaining to strengthening and operationalizing synergic climate and SDG actions at all levels. This report offers information which can be used as a tool in increasing sustainability in tourism and leisure.

[READ MORE...](#)



New toolkit for European School Sport Day 2023 to help schools find more Joy in Physical Activity and Sport

Author: Rachel Payne, ISCA

When leading sports activities, teachers and coaches should be aware of whether they are encouraging positive rather than negative behaviours among school children, and emphasising fun and enjoyment, teamwork and effort over winning and competition. Examples of these 'joyful' approaches to physical activity, which encourage long-term engagement, are featured in the Joy in Physical Activity and Sport toolkit. In particular, the 'festival method', is one approach that has been utilised by the Hungarian School Sport Federation (HSSF) nationwide in recent years. The toolkit shares many more practical ideas that can inspire anyone working with youth, including school staff, school activists, community leaders, and ESSD National Coordinators, to support participating schools in motivating children in a joyful way to be active.

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Opportunities



Calls for Papers for a *World Leisure Journal* Special Issue on Visual Methods in/as Leisure Research

Abstract deadline: 31 January 2024

Manuscript deadline: 01 October 2024

This Special Issue of *World Leisure Journal* invites submissions that (re)centralise visual methods in leisure research. Within wider and increasing attention to sensorial research (e.g., Pink, 2015), visual methods offer creative, critical and immersive approaches to leisure research.

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Call for Special Issue Proposals for Leisure Studies

The Managing Editors of *Leisure Studies* welcome proposals from colleagues wishing to edit a special issue of the journal. Colleagues wishing to propose a Special Issue should submit an outline of up to 1,000 words which summarises the key aims and proposed theme(s) to be explored, how the issue will build upon work published previously in the journal and field more widely, and topics on which papers would be sought. A short CV (no more than 2 pages) for each editor outlining their expertise, relevant publications and editorial experience should also be submitted. We particularly invite proposals from colleagues based in the Global South. Proposals should be sent by email to Professor Thomas Fletcher, Managing Editor, no later than end of day 30th November 2023: t.e.fletcher@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

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Upcoming events



WLO to participate in the second edition of Qatar Travel Mart (QTM 2023) from November 20-22

The second edition of Qatar Travel Mart will take place from November 20 to 22 in Doha, and WLO will participate after the successful 2021 edition, where it became an Association Partner. QTM will once again gather the world's top destinations and reveal the latest trends in Sports, MICE, Business, Cultural, Leisure, Luxury, Medical, and Halal tourism. In parallel to this, the QTM Conference will be held as a reservoir of thought leaders, experts, and influential stakeholders to provide insights into the industry's latest trends and innovations. WLO Chair Prof. Joanne Schroeder and WLO COO Dr. Cristina Ortega will be actively participating in a panel discussion on Indigenous Eco Tourism and Sustainable Tourism and Intangible Cultural Heritage, respectively.

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Join the #MOVE Congress in Madrid (15-17 November)

Source: [ISCA](#)

The MOVE Congress is one of the few conferences in the world that focuses solely on recreational sport and physical activity. The event gathers organisations and individuals who deliver initiatives at the grassroots level along with decision-makers, companies, urban planners, health experts, academics and other key stakeholders for three days of active networking. Its innovative sessions have a unique focus on being physically active – so you can expect the unexpected, such as watching a speaker riding

an exercise bike during their presentation, sitting on a fitness ball or showing you the active spaces in their city. Taking this dynamic approach and getting conference participants out of their seats to move around ensures a great level of interaction and is a fun way to break the ice. And it might just help you establish your next successful partnership...

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Encounter

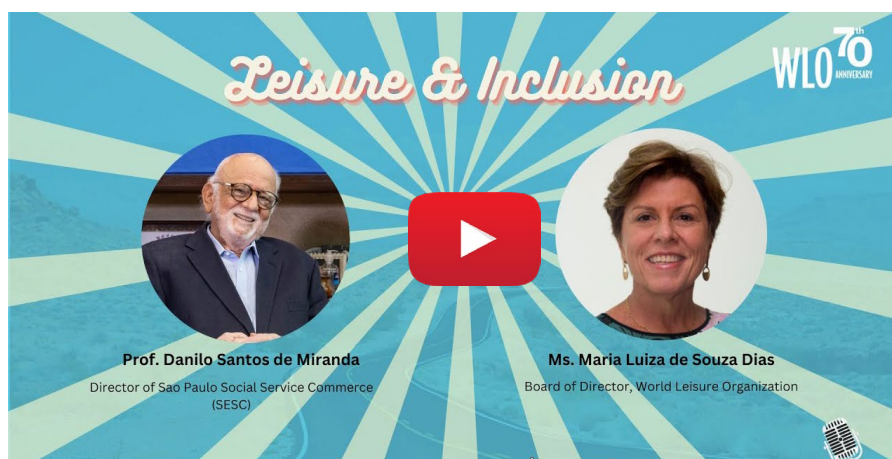


In honoring memory of Danilo Santos de Miranda

On Sunday, October 29, 2023, we received the sad news about the passing of Danilo Santos de Miranda, Director of Sesc São Paulo. Danilo was pioneer and leading figure in the promotion of culture as an educational driving force who, throughout his career as a philosopher and cultural and social manager, transformed the cultural landscape of his country through his exceptional and outstanding leadership within the Social Service of Commerce (Sesc). Through Sesc, he played a fundamental role in the organization of the two World Leisure Congresses in Sao Paulo in 1998 and 2018 and became a great advocate in building the strong and friendly relationship between Sesc and WLO that we still have nowadays. To honor his memory, we share again a recent conversation we had with him, on Leisure and Inclusion.

From WLO we extend our condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues at Sesc.

[Watch it here.](#)





WORLD LEISURE ORGANIZATION (WLO)

World Leisure Organization is a non-profit organization registered in the State of New York in Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council since 1990.

Scientific and Technical Office - Arenal 1. Segunda Planta 48005 Bilbao, Spain - www.worldleisure.org