Putting the P in SDP.

Sport, Conflict Resolution, and Peace Building in Divided Societies: Playing with enemies

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The Loughborough Question

“As the chief architect of the Football 4 Peace programme, how does being a sociologist influence your approach?”

Question from Dr. Dominic Malcolm, University of Loughborough in 2006
The Short Answer

“For me being a sociologist is a way of life. My sociological gaze has been influenced mostly by the critical sociology of C. Wright-Mills and my experience as an ethnographer.”

@ProfJohnSugden
The Long Answer: Part One
SDP in Never-never land
SDP in the Promised Land

The F4P Methodology

“The team felt that they needed to do more to ensure that the contents of that football programme were clearly underpinned by values and principles that fed a broader community relations agenda and also to ensure that those values and principles were appreciated by the local coaches and experienced by the children in practice.”
The Long Answer: Part Three

SDP in the Rainbow Nation

Incorporating life skills alongside values
The Long Answer: Part Four

SDP in Cloud Cuckoo Land

"Sport has the power to change the world."

Nelson Mandela,
Laureus World Sports Awards 2000, Monaco
‘Sport does have a meaningful and powerful role to play in the social transformation of society if care is taken to provide the necessary conditions for success.’

Bishop Desmond Tutu
Secretary of South African Council of Churches & Nobel Peace Prize Winner 1984

‘For tyranny to prevail all it takes is for good men (sic) to do nothing’

Edmund Burke.
The Long Answer: Part Five

SDP Back Down To Earth – Learning from the field
– Going Back to C. Wright Mills

• A sociology of peace processes should not offer grand theory or a universal scheme, but should be restricted in its applicability to specified cases that exist in real time and space – context is everything;

• A praxis-based methodology involving a dialogue between practical experience in the field and the established body of knowledge;

• Understanding and harnessing how ordinary people experience conflict and its consequences, whose responses to which affects the conflict and the peace process (dialectic between ‘personal troubles’ and ‘public issues’);

“Between God and chance there lies Sociology.”

‘C. Wright Mills and the End of Violence’, J. D. Brewer, 2003, p152
Critical Pro-activism, Pragmatism, Partnerships, Dissemination and the Ripple Effect

John Sugden’s (2010) ‘Ripple Effect Model’ was taken as a starting point.

Each ring or ripple signifies an entity / stakeholder / organisation.

The intervention (for a specific group) or training (for the professional delivering the intervention) is the point of delivery of the methodology.

The point of delivery might be a unit of work in school, a community programme or a training camp. The impact from these events is measured on its influence / effect on individual or collective behaviour (is there a positive change), and / or adoption of practices within organisational policy – be it a school, club, NGO, governing body or government.

Monitoring, evaluation and research allows us to find, evidence and measure the impact, report on it and feeds back for future delivery.
The place of sport in multi-dimensional piece (peace) puzzle
The Long Answer: Part Seven

The Snowball Effect...
“sport alone may not change the world, but children playing with their enemies just might.”