

"Female Boxers inside the frame"

Audio-visual methods in research about Body Techniques"

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Introduction

My doctoral research takes lived body experiences and forms of embodiment as its 'hinge' for an exploration of women's participation in boxing. Importantly, it sets its sight and senses on athletes' experiences *inside* the sport, a point that has been largely negated in presentations on women's boxing.

My thesis essentially asks what is it about boxing itself – a sport where one actively uses and experiences one's body as instrument, weapon and target in the ring – that attracts women and makes boxing meaningful to women.

Methode

As in most ethnographic research qualitative approaches like participant observation and interviews were employed, yet it were visual methods that became to feature prominently in the course of this project. In my talk I will introduce and discuss the many benefits of using a camera as a research tool. In particular I will reflect on film- and photo-elicitation techniques, when the researcher employs images as catalyst for feedback. This means images are shown to individuals and/or groups with the expressed aim of exploring their meanings, values, imaginations, and in order to trigger memories and discussions.

Diskussion

Many researchers have demonstrated how specific examples of social relations and bodily techniques depicted in a film sequences or photograph can become the basis for a discussion of broader abstractions and generalities; conversely, vague memories can be given sharpness and focus, unleashing a flood of detail and information.