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Between Prague and Muju : a contribution to non-entertainment tourism research

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KINESIOLOGY

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Key words: scientific tourism, martial arts, scientific association, conferences

Abstract

Background and Aim. The scientific perspective co-creates an anthropological-system theory of tourism and recreation, offers selected approaches to cultural tourism, as well as the humanistic theory of martial arts. The problem in this study is to determine the relationship between a range of concepts – “tourism of martial arts” and “scientific tourism”. The paper also presents a reflection on the development of specialised scientific associations.

Methods. The main method is participant observation, and in addition, an analysis of sources and literature, and an analysis of two cases were also used. The first of these was an event in Europe, the second in the Far East.

Results. This paper is a contribution to the history and sociology of scientific institutions (process of institutionalisation). Participation in the first conference reviewed here combined the characteristics of scientific and cultural tourism; in the second – it combined scientific and sports tourism. The first conference was a major scientific event, and the second one focused more on researchers – martial arts specialists.

Conclusions. For participants, their aims from “scientific tourism” and “tourism of martial arts” go in parallel. The scientific aim is probably the more important. Both conferences were manifestations of “non-entertainment tourism”, were important scientific events and were interesting in respect of the history and sociology of selected scientific institutions (advanced process of institutionalisation).

Introduction

The title of the article is inspired by Cynarski’s [2010] work. That approach was geographically wider: from the US, through Europe to the Far East. This time it took place between the centre of Europe (Prague, Czech Rep., EU) and Muju in South Korea.

The scientific perspective co-creates an anthropological-system theory of tourism and recreation, offers selected approaches to cultural tourism, sociology (process of institutionalisation), as well as the humanistic theory of martial arts [cf. Mikos von Rohrscheidt 2008; Obodynski 2008; Buczkowska 2014; Cynarski, Duricek 2014; Munsters, Melkert 2015; Cynarski 2017a].

The problem in this study is to determine the relationship between the range of concepts – “tourism of martial arts” and “scientific tourism”. The paper also presents a reflection on the development of specialised scientific associations.

The main method is participant observation, and also an analysis of sources and literature. The next

method is the analysis of two cases, the first of which was an event in Europe, the second in the Far East. This method is the multiple case study research – descriptive, interpretive and evaluative – for two cases [Skinner, Edwards, Corbett 2015: 116-133]. It is the study of two trips for scientific purposes – for active participation in scientific conferences. Comparison of conferences was used in a similar way to that of the work by Cynarski and Swider [2017].

It is also a description of events that are important for several scientific associations – for the history of the EASS (the European Association for Sociology of Sport) and the IMACSSS (International Martial Arts and Combat Sports Scientific Society). Along with the description and review of important scientific conferences, this also applies to the sociology of science, and to the sociology of martial arts (because of the topics).

The conceptual language of the humanistic theory of martial arts (definitions of ‘martial arts’ and ‘combat sports’) [Cynarski, Skowron 2014] is adopted. The term “scientific tourism” is used here in the sense of depar-



Photo 1. Opening ceremony of the EASS Conference 2017 in the *Karolinum Hall* [courtesy of Grzegorz Bielec].

ture for a scientific purpose, i.e. according to the main purpose of travel [cf. Cynarski, Duricek 2014; Cynarski 2015]. This also applies to other non-entertainment tourism – the “tourism of martial arts” [cf. Buczkowska 2014: 183; Cynarski, Duricek 2014; Cynarski 2015]. It is about passionate people travelling knowledge and skills in martial arts [cf. Kim *et al.* 2015; Pawelec *et al.* 2015].

“Sport tourism” is understood here as a departure to participate (either passive or active) in a sporting event [cf. Vehmas 2010; Kazimierzak 2016]. So these are travels to participate in sports competitions (competitors, coaches) or to support such an event (spectator in the sports arena).

Although some theorists consider “scientific tourism” a variant of business tourism [cf. Piskozub 2007; Sawicki 2016], we are, in this paper, assuming that it is a form of self-realisation tourism. After all, gaining knowledge and striving for the truth about reality is a relatively

free area for a scientist. The researcher is not forced to go to a conference as part of his professional duties.

1. EASS Conference in Prague

The idea of the 14th EASS Conference: *The Values of Sport: Between Tradition and (Post)Modernity* (June 14-17, 2017) was to gather scientists from social sciences and to have discussion about values in sport. The programme also included meetings of the Board of EASS, Editorial Board of the “European Journal for Sport and Society”, next the presentation of Young Researcher Award, and the Special Session of IMACSSS.

The Opening Ceremony was celebrated in the old Karolinum Hall of the Charles University [photo 1]. On the second day there was a ceremony of awarding of the honorary membership of EASS to Professor Otmar



Photo 2. After the Special Session of IMACSSS in Prague 2017 [courtesy of Irena Martinkova].

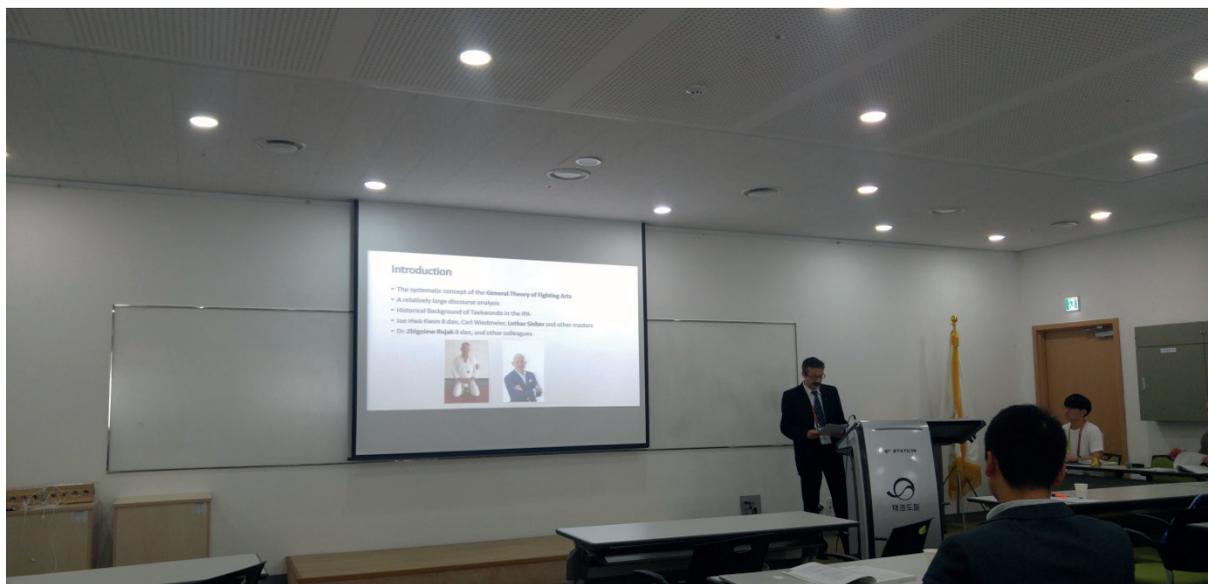


Photo 3. Prof. Cynarski during the oral presentation of his paper in Muju [courtesy of Pawel Swider]

Weiss, the first president of this association. The Special Session of IMACSSS: “Values in Combat Sports and Martial Arts” was conducted on that day by Prof. Dr Wojciech J. Cynarski (president IMACSSS and EASS Board member).

For this Session several abstracts were submitted. 8 best works included: two introductory papers – 1) by W.J. Cynarski (Poland) and Jong-Hoon Yu (USA): *Ethical values in jujutsu of Japanese origin*; and 2) by Irena Martinkova, Jim Parry and Michal Vagner (Czech Rep.): *Contribution of martial arts to moral development*; next by 3) Veronika Partikova (Czech Rep.): *Kung-fu family: is this tradition transferable to the West?*; 4) Takahiro Kitamura et al. (Japan): *Student physical competence and the educational impact of budo in junior high school in Japan*; 5) Chloe Maclean (UK): *‘You must hit your mother!’: re-evaluation gendered family structures through shared karate practice*; 6) George Jennings (UK): *“De-colonise your mind”: a postcolonial axiology of social media shares by Mexican martial arts associations*; 7) Eduardo Gonzalez de la Fuente (Spain): *Traditional values, martial arts tourism and national branding: the case of Okinawan karate*; and once again 8) Chloe Maclean: *Fighting with the senses: negotiating space, power, and gendered embodiment through sensuous engagement in mixed-sex karate practice* – the winner of the EASS Young Researcher Award in 2017.

Otmar Weiss (Austria), Cora Burnett (South Africa), Nico Besnier (The Netherlands), and Jim Parry (UK) were invited as keynote speakers. Prof. Parry’s lecture on “The impossibility of empirical phenomenology” was the most interesting. There were some plenary, and several parallel sessions.

Active participants of the Special Session of IMACSSS [photo 2] received special certificates of IMACSSS.

2. About Taekwondo in Muju

The 6th International Symposium for Taekwondo Studies: *Global Education of a Better Taekwondo*, It took place from 29 to 30 June, 2017, in Taekwondowon, Muju / Korea. As stated by the President of the Korean Alliance of Martial Arts, this is the World Taekwondo Mecca (for Olympic taekwondo WTF, the World Taekwondo Federation). Because the conference took place at the Taekwondo World Championships (June 24–30, 2017)¹, the President of the IOC – Dr Thomas Bach, attended this great taekwondo sport centre.

This was another meeting of *taekwondo* researchers and of other martial arts (e.g. Korean *taekkyon* [Yeong 2017]). The topic was related to the area of combat sports and martial arts, in an interdisciplinary perspective. Among keynote speakers there were Laura Capranica (Italy), who *nota bene* has been cooperating with IPA (Idokan Poland Association) and IMACSSS for long time [cf. Capranica et al. 2010], and Chia-Hua Kuo (Taiwan), representatives of nature sciences.

However, the most interesting were the presentations of the Session I – “Sociology, Pedagogy, Psychology”, led by Udo Moenig, Peter Ha, Ron Dziwenka and Wojciech J. Cynarski, as well as meeting “Taekwondo Philosophy Round Table”. Does this philosophy differ from the more general philosophy of *budo*? Kim, Back 2000; Sham 2013a, b; Szyszko-Bohusz 2013]? The relationship of *taekwondo* philosophy (closely related to *taekwondo* practice) and Olympism was also pointed out by Thomas Bach in his speech.

In this “humanist” session Wojciech J. Cynarski delivered a paper, prepared in collaboration with John Johnson, entitled: *Taekwondo and Korean Martial Arts*

¹ These were the biggest championships ever. 971 competitors from 183 countries participated.



Photo 4. Organizers of the symposium – in the middle: Dr John Johnson and Dr Jong Kook Song [courtesy of Y. C. Ent].

in *Idokan* (1993-2016): A Review. which concerned IPA and scientific Rzeszow School [photo 3; cf. Yu *et al.* 2015; Zeng, Cynarski 2016].

A few interesting papers were presented, in particular those by: Dr John Johnson (on *taekwondo* pedagogy), Dr Ron Dziwenka (on practical *philosophy*), Dr Gwang Og (on traditional wrestling *ssireum*), and Dr Udo Moenig (on evolution of regulations in Olympic *taekwondo*). Moenig's paper has already been (after the conference) published in a full version [see: Moenig 2017]. In their discussion Cynarski and Dziwenka drew attention to the fact of the presence of a factor of patriotism or nationalism in the national sports of Korea and Japan.

There was also a meeting of the IATR – the International Association for Taekwondo Research. Due to the decision taken at this assembly the “Journal of IATR” changed its name to the “Acta Taekwondo and Martial Arts”.

3. Comparison and Results

1) Thematic profile

In both cases these were international conferences. In Prague and Muju similar sessions about values in relation to combat sports and the philosophy of martial arts were held.

However, in Prague there was only one thematic session on MA/CS; other issues were about sport and leisure from broad sociological point of view. In Muju

the main topic concerned MA/CS, especially *taekwondo*, but in a multidisciplinary approach.

2) Place of the conference and organisers

In Prague the conference was organised at Charles University in cooperation with EASS, and the Special Session of IMACSSS – with IMACSSS. In particular, it was the job of *Doc.* Dr Slepickova and *Doc.* Dr Martinkova. Their Faculty of PE and Sport, at Charles University, was the place of the conference.

In Muju the place of the event was Taekwondowon – a big special centre for this Olympic combat sport. It was 4 hours by car from Incheon Airport. The organisers were: Prof. Dr Jong Kook Song, The President of IATR, Dr Chunwon Choue, the President of WTF, and Dr John Johnson from the Kyung Hee University.

3) Distance and travel

For the author, the main motivation for the choice of transport was the distance from the school and the place of residence. Because in the first case it was about 700 km, the decision was to go in a private passenger car. In the second case (over 10 000 km one way) – the natural choice was the plane. The time and cost of travel were the deciding factors in the calculation.

The trip to Muju (and later return) was a two-day, five-step journey: a) by car to the airport; b) by plane to Warsaw; b) by plane from Warsaw to Istanbul; b) from Istanbul to Incheon / Seoul; e) from Incheon to Taekwondowon in Muju – by bus. In each case, there was at

least a couple of hours of waiting for a connection, airport control proceedings, etc. This was an expedition requiring a high level of internal motivation, which is typical of martial arts tourists.

4) *Number of participants*

In both cases, these were medium-size conferences, according to the criterion of the number of participants, namely about 100 people in Muju and 166 from 29 countries in Prague. Also, the second conferences was a little bigger. In both cases participants came from different continents.

5) *Number of papers*

In Prague 142 works were submitted, in Muju – 95. In both cases most of them were presented during oral or poster presentations.

6) *Scientific level – evaluation*

The academic level at both conferences was generally high. In the case of a few young lectures in Muju, there were difficulties in answering the questions, probably caused by the language barrier (the proceedings were in English).

7) *Accompanying cultural programme or artistic part*

In Prague, a tour of this beautiful city was planned and it was fully realised. In Muju, however, on the third day a visit to the festival of Korean culture was originally scheduled, but finally it was cancelled.

On the other hand, the attraction of the conference in Muju was the opportunity to watch WTF finals (in the neighbouring sports hall) and the magnificent *taekwondo* show of the competitive ITF organization – the International Taekwon-do Federation.

8) *Publication of the results of scientific research*

The important fact, due to the operation in science and higher education, is the publication of research results. In both cases it was only an abstract book. But, selected parts of papers presented in Taekwondowon/Muju will be probably published (in full text as articles) in the “Acta Taekwondo and Martial Arts”, Journal of IATR. And EASS does not provide similar opportunities for all participants.

To sum up, with a similar number of participants, the conference in Prague was slightly better (according to the number of papers and duration). This may be due to its longer, cyclical nature and organizational experience. In the first case it was the 14th conference, in the second one – the 6th.

4. Discussion

Unlike the IPA and/or IMACSSS conferences, the topic of the conference was limited to the selected MA/CS



Photo 5. Dinner at a Korean restaurant, Muju 2017 [courtesy of P. Swider].

(Korean MA/CS) or one special session and specific topic [cf. Cynarski, Kubala 2017]. The dominant or most interesting (according to a subjective assessment of the author of this article) were the lectures on the values of martial arts and the results of humanistic/socio-cultural research. This dimension distinguishes martial arts very favourably against other forms of physical culture [cf. Szmyd 2013b; Szyszko-Bohusz 2013; Cynarski, Szajna 2017].

However, for the first time in the history of EASS (since 2001), the IMACSSS Scientific Session was held [cf. Obodynski, Cynarski 2011; Cynarski, Grzywacz 2016]. Also for the first time in the Scientific Committee IATR was the president of the IMACSSS. This may indicate the progressive institutionalization and integration of an international martial arts researcher’s environment.

It is probably the right decision to combine the organization of top-level sporting events with scientific conferences. There was no [Cynarski 2017b] at the Ju-Jitsu International Federation ‘2016 (*jujutsu sport*) World Championships in Wrocław. In the same way as in Poland, so also in Muju the hosts won the medal classification. Surely the hosts are favoured by the atmosphere and are probably motivated to win “at home”. Participation in competitions of this rank is for sports enthusiasts strictly “sports tourism”.

In addition to the visual reception, there was a tasting reception in both cases – the *tourist tasting* [Cynarski, Obodynski 2006]. While the Czech cuisine is not very different from other European kinds of cuisine (with the exception of quite a few original dishes), Korean cuisine has its own specialities. It is rather spicy, with lots of seafood [photo 5]. Perhaps it is the reason why Korean people have the world's smallest number of obese people?

Is it possible to determine the relationship between the ranges of concepts – "tourism of martial arts" and "scientific tourism"? For participants of scientific conferences on MA/CS it can be related to parallel aims – the scientific aim (and motivation, may be the most important), and the second one, connected with one's own interests and/or philosophy of life.

Similar results were pointed in some works [Cynarski 2015, 2017a; Pawelec *et al.* 2015; Cynarski, Kubala 2017; Cynarski, Swider 2017]. And also scientific tourism contains often cultural tourism (e.g. sightseeing of Prague) and gives more possibilities for self-realisation [Buczowska 2014; Cynarski, Duricek 2014; Munsters, Melkert 2015].

Conclusions

For participants their aims of the "scientific tourism" and the "tourism of martial arts" in go parallel. The scientific aim is probably the most important. Both conferences were manifestations of "non-entertainment tourism".

Both conferences were important scientific events interesting for history and sociology of selected scientific institutions (advanced process of institutionalisation).

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Pomiędzy Pragą a Muju. Przyczynek do badań turystyki nierozrywkowej

Słowa kluczowe: turystyka naukowa, sztuki walki, stowarzyszenia naukowe, konferencje

Abstrakt

Perspektywa i cel. Perspektywę naukową współtworzą antropologiczno-systemowa teoria turystyki i rekreacji, wybrane ujęcia turystyki kulturowej, jak również humanistyczna teoria sztuk walki. Problemem naukowym tego stadium jest ustalenie zależności pomiędzy zakresami pojęć – „turystyka sztuk walki” a „turystyka naukowa”. Ten artykuł przedstawia także refleksję o rozwoju wyspecjalizowanych stowarzyszeń naukowych. Metoda. Główną metodą jest obserwacja uczestnicząca oraz – dodatkowo – analiza źródeł i opracowań, literatury przedmiotu, a także zastosowano analizę porównawczą dwóch przypadków, z których pierwszy jest wydarzeniem w Europie, drugi zaś – w Azji Wschodniej.

Wyniki. To jest przyczynek do historii i socjologii instytucji naukowych (proces instytucjonalizacji). Udział w pierwszej recenzowanej tu konferencji łączył cechy turystyki naukowej i kulturowej; w drugim zaś przypadku – naukowej i sportowej. Pierwsza konferencja była większą imprezą naukową, druga zaś skupiła większą ilość badaczy - specjalistów od sztuk walki. Wnioski. Dla uczestników ich cele „turystyki naukowej” i „turystyki sztuk walki” są równoległe. Cel naukowy jest prawdopodobnie najbardziej istotny. Obydwie konferencje są manifestacjami „turystyki nierozrywkowej”. Były one ważnymi wydarzeniami naukowymi oraz interesującymi dla historii i socjologii wybranych instytucji naukowych (zaawansowany proces instytucjonalizacji).