

## Panel

### **Sports, women and the cultural dynamics of difference**

This panel stems from an ongoing collaboration project between Stockholm University, Nordiska museet and Riksidrottsmuseet (Swedish Sports Museum), where women-only races and sports events are studied as cultural phenomena ([www.nordiskamuseet.se/tjejlopp](http://www.nordiskamuseet.se/tjejlopp)). The project focuses on Swedish conditions, with races such as Tjejvasan (cross-country skiing), Tjejevättern (road cycling) and Tjejmilen (road running), and for this panel we want to invite colleagues from the Nordic countries to make comparisons in a larger context and discuss women-only sports events from a broader perspective. The cultural dynamics of difference are crucial to this project, as it seems that the terms of "woman" or "girl" – or in Swedish usually "tjej" – can be loaded with cultural meanings in a way that does not correspond to their male equivalents.

The panel invites papers that discuss issues such as: What kind of phenomena are women-only sports events? How are they related to other women-only activities and arenas? Are they challenging or consolidating male sports norms? What is a woman athlete or sportswoman? How have the images of sportswomen varied over time and space? Which kinds of femininities (or female masculinities) can be performed within sports and physical exercise? What are the implications of age, functionality, class, ethnicity, religion, gender identification and sexual preferences in these contexts? How do the participants themselves experience and value these events?

Empirical and theoretical work on all aspects (bodily, ideological, material, ritual, historical etc.) of women athletes, sportswomen, women-only sports events, women in adventure sports, street sports, leisure and physical exercise, are warmly welcomed. The panel welcomes papers in Swedish, Norwegian, Danish and English.

### **Would you like to take part in this panel? Send abstract to:**

Dr. Karin S. Lindelöf  
Department of Ethnology, History of Religions and Gender Studies  
Stockholm University, Sweden  
[karin.lindelof@etnologi.su.se](mailto:karin.lindelof@etnologi.su.se)  
+46 70 671 47 48

Copy: [panel@bergen2012.no](mailto:panel@bergen2012.no)